

NYC Council Testimony

1/25/25

Main points

Introduction:

Thank you, council members, for holding this public hearing.

My name is Pete Sidote; I am the Empire State Redemption Center Association president. We are a group of over 125 Redemption Centers across NYS, many of which service the five Boros. The following statements are supported by the redemption centers across the five boroughs.

1. All 125 redemption centers, 20,000 employees, and hundreds of thousands of people that we represent and rely on the deposit return systems say in unison, "we all fully support an expanded bottle bill." An expanded bill that increases the containers covered under legislation includes teas, juices, sports drinks, and wine and liquor bottles. A new bill would also increase the deposit per container from 5 to 10 cents and the handling fee from 3.5 to 6 cents.
2. The expanded bill makes sense for many reasons.
3. The science and data are crystal clear. Deposit Return systems are one of the NYCs most effective recycling systems. According to sources like the Container Recycling Institute and New York Times, The Bottle Bill is approximately 4x more effective at recycling bottles and cans vs. curbside collection.
4. Also, according to the Container Recycling Institute, plastic, aluminum, and glass recycled through the redemption system are 40% more likely to be made into consumer goods vs. the same material sourced from curbside recycling. As EPR legislation is expected to pass in the coming years and more consumer products require the SAFE pet to be infused in packaging, the Bottle Bill is our state's purest source of recycled feedstock.
5. The Bottle Bill is a leading environmental policy and a huge economic driver.
6. Tens of thousands rely on the deposit money for food, medicine and shelter.
7. The expansion of the Bottle bill will help empower, legitimize, and establish the canning community.
8. With an expanded bottle bill NYS is estimated to make around \$250M annually. This is a pool of funding that the city can request resources from.
9. Again an expanded bottle bill will be great for the cities economy and citizens.
10. Despite the many clear benefits our government officials will naturally gear opposition against the bottle bill.

11. One point of opposition you will hear is that bodegas, spirit shops and food stores across the city do not want to take back the single use packaging that they sell. That is okay, under current and expanded legislation they can be exempt from taking material back as long as they partner with a Redemption center who will collect material on their behalf. The majority of our members have the infrastructure ready to handle the increase in deposit material. We are ready to serve our great city.
12. Finally, The expansion of the bill will fuel technologies that will help make the redemption system more secure against fraudulent activity while being more convenient for business, citizens.

Do not mention the true reasons companies do not want to pickup material

The bottle bill is scientifically proven to be NYS's most effective recycling system.

- Senia University conducted a study and found that 71% of NYS resident support an expanded bottle bill.
- According to CRI - Deposit Return systems recycle approximately 7X more bottles and cans vs. the curbside recycling program.
- When the material enters both the curbside and recycling system, the material is 40% more likely to be made into consumer goods. CRI
- This is because of contamination level differences.
- Not only is the bottle bill one of the best environmental policies, but it is a huge economic driver for businesses, the state, and citizens
- Redemption Centers across NYS employ approximately 20,000 people
- And Deposit Return systems provide over 100,000 people with necessary income, they rely on this money to buy food medicine for their children and pay their rent.
- Redemption centers need a increase in handling fee
- Minimum wage at 7 dollars now at 15
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- Main points
 - Increasing deposit with out increase in handling fee
 - Contracting bodegas, convenience stores to redemption centers

Mike Genaris meeting

-> Jenn from Gianris office

Senator Mannions bill

-> Noah

- Their constitutions feel that the manufacture should be the company paying for the EPR laws
- Ryan → EPR does not make sense for the beverage containers

- The expansion would blow up existing contracts that exist →
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Senator Harkham Leader of environmental committee.

Silvi is her staffer.

Jenn → Mike

The bottle bill is scientifically proven to be NYS's most effective recycling system.

- \$100M+ added to the environmental budget
- Senia College conducted a study and found that 71% of NYS residents support an expanded bottle bill.
- On our list we have about 5 redemption centers in and around your district - Sunnyside, Astoria, Jackson Heights, Long Island city ect. We are everywhere imbedded in almost every community.
- According to CRI, - Deposit Return systems recycle approximately 7X more bottles and cans vs. the curbside recycling program.
- When the material enters both the curbside and recycling system, the material is 40% more likely to be made into consumer goods. CRI
- This is because of contamination level differences.
- The bottle bill is one of the best environmental policies and a substantial economic driver for businesses, the state, and citizens.
- Redemption Centers across NYS employ approximately 20,000 people
- And Deposit Return systems provide over 100,000 people with the necessary income; they rely on this money to buy food, medicine for their children, and pay their rent.
- Redemption centers need an increase in handling fee
- NYS did a great job Minimum wage at 7 dollars, now at 15
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- Main points
 - Increasing deposit with an out increase in handling fee
 - Contracting bodegas, convenience stores to, redemption centers

Meeting notes

- Senator Martinez