



New York State Joint Legislative Budget Hearing - Environmental Conservation January 28, 2025

New York Deposit Law (S237B/A6353)

Dear Senator Krueger & Assemblymember Pretlow,

The New York City & Eastern Long Island Chapters of the Surfrider Foundation support the expansion of the New York Deposit Law, also known as the Bigger Better Bottle Bill (S237B/A6353). Surfrider Foundation is an environmental organization dedicated to protecting our oceans, beaches and coastal communities and we support expanding the bottle bill so that we reduce the amount of litter we find in our communities and reduce the negative effects to underserved communities from the manufacturing and disposal of beverage containers.

As New York is facing a solid waste crisis and drowning in plastic waste, it is time for legislators to pass the Bigger Better Bottle Bill in the budget to address the issues we are facing. Our New York chapters host a lot of beach cleanups every year. Over the past eight years, we have hosted 326 cleanups in New York State and we record data on the trash collected at each cleanup. Plastic beverage bottles are always some of the most commonly found items. Over eight years, we collected 9,776 plastic bottles and 34,322 plastic bottle caps and rings. Other items we found that are related to the beverage industry are 3,301 glass bottles, 5,234 aluminum cans, and 3,998 metal bottle caps. This is a total of 56,631 beverage debris.

Expanding the deposit law to include wine, spirits, hard cider, and most non-carbonated beverages will reduce litter that is ending up on our beaches and communities. Increasing the deposit fee from 5 cents to 10 cents will increase the redemption rate, as this has been proven successful in other states that have expanded their bottle bill. For example, in Michigan, the deposit fee is 10-cent and their redemption rate was 89% in 2019. We also support raising the handling fee so that redemption centers are still able to provide redemption access to communities. It is time for NYS to expand the deposit law to address the state's waste issue and the effects it has on wildlife and human health. We urge the Assembly and Senate to pass the Bigger Better Bottle Bill (S237B/A6353). This bill will be a huge win for New York State as it creates jobs, increases recycling, and promotes environmental justice. It will also generate between forty and two hundred millions of dollars in revenue for the state¹.

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¹ NYPIRG Bottle Bill Fact Sheet