

**AN OPEN LETTER TO GOVERNOR HOCHUL URGING INCLUSION IN THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET OF THE
“BIGGER BETTER BOTTLE BILL”**

VIA EMAIL

December 11, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor
Executive Chamber
Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Support Modernizing New York’s Returnable Container Act (“Bottle Bill”) as Part of Your Executive Budget or as a Program Priority, Which Would Increase Redemption Rates, Reduce Litter, Help Reduce Solid Wastes, and Protect Jobs & Businesses

Dear Governor Hochul,

The undersigned organizations write to express our strong support to modernize New York’s Returnable Container Act, commonly known as the ‘Bottle Bill.’ It’s time to update the law to increase the deposit value, include popular non-carbonated beverages, wine, spirits, hard cider, and other beverage containers. Expanding the type of beverages in the Bottle Bill deposit program will result in billions of bottles being diverted from landfills and incinerators. An expanded Bottle Bill will further reduce pollution, especially plastic pollution, all while lifting up workers in the recycling and redemption industry.

Moreover, in a year in which the state is facing a significant budget deficit, modernizing the Bottle Bill could generate as much as \$100 million and save local governments money by reducing costs for trash disposal and litter clean up.

There are four important steps needed to modernize the law:

Expand the type of covered beverage containers. Modernization expands the types and number of beverage containers covered by the Bottle Bill. Other states from Maine to California include a diverse range of non-carbonated beverages, wine, and liquor with great success. Any modernization plan appropriately exempts all dairy, dairy-like, and 100% vegetable and fruit juice containers.

Increase the amount of the deposit to a dime. The impact of the nickel deposit approved in 1982 has eroded over time. A mere inflation update would likely make that deposit nearly *fifteen cents*. To ensure that those who wish to redeem their deposits can easily do so, we need a portion of the additional revenues collected by the state to be used to ensure better compliance and enhance access to redemption entities. Oregon has already increased deposits on beverage containers to 10 cents, leading to an immediate increase in recycling redemption rates. An additional benefit is that an increased deposit (plus an expansion to new containers) will help "canners," those hard-working individuals who collect redeemable containers that are discarded by the original consumer.

Increase the "handling fee," which has not been increased in over 15 years. The "handling fee" is the funding stream for redemption centers, entities that exist to make it easier for consumers to redeem containers as well as helping the state's redemption rate. As you know, the costs of running a business

have significantly increased over the past 15 years, but the funding for redemption centers has not. As a result, over 150 centers have had to close, thus undermining the program, reducing consumer convenience, and costing the state jobs. We urge that you include a phase-in increase in the fee as part of your budget.

Modernization has other benefits as well. The bill's reuse provisions would reduce single-use plastic bottles that are made from fossil fuels, bringing it more in alignment with NYSERDA's Climate Plan by phasing out single-use packaging. Deposit programs are also much better for glass recycling. The recovery rates for glass containers under deposit are 2-3 times the rate as they are recycled in curbside programs. The quality of material is significantly better, without contamination, such that the glass from the bottle deposit program is virtually all returned to glass container manufacturing plants in New York and neighboring states in the region.

The above provisions, plus other important reforms, are included in S.5684/A.6543. We support that bill and urge you to include it as part of your executive budget or embrace it as a program proposal. As you know, modernization of the law was included as part of the DEC's "New York State Solid Waste Management Plan: Building the Circular Economy Through Sustainable Materials Management (2023 - 2032)."

We urge your support for this important environmental and economic justice initiative. Including the Bigger, Better Bottle Bill in your FY 2026-2027 Executive Budget or as a program proposal will bolster the state's efforts to reduce litter, enhance recycling, create jobs, lift up canners in disadvantaged communities, expand equity, and ease consumer participation.

Thank you for considering our request, and we look forward to working with you to ensure a cleaner environment.

Sincerely,

350Brooklyn
350NYC
5 Cent Bottle Return LLC
A&A Redemption Center, Inc
AAJA
ACES Aurorans for Climate and Environmental
Sense
Adirondack Voters for Change
AGA REDEMPTION LLC
Albany Presbytery Peacemaking Task Force
Albany Progressive Action Network
Albany UU Green Sanctuary Team
Albion Redemption Center
All Our Energy
Allegany Beverage and Redemption
Alliance for a Green Economy
Amir holdings Inc.
AQS REDEMPTION Inc.
ARC Redemption Inc.
Auburn Bottle Return

Aytzim: Ecological Judaism
Bag O' Nickels Redemption
BC Sustainability Club
Best Buds @ SU
Beyond Plastics
Beyond Plastics Brooklyn
Beyond Plastics Queens
Beyond Plastics Schenectady
Beyond Plastics Sullivan County NY
Big Reuse
Bottle Bills
BOTTLE DEPOT
Bottle Depot
Bottle World Inc.
Bottles For The Brave
Brooklyn College Dream Team
BSA Pack 4076
BSA Troop 4085
Buffalo Nickel Redemption
Buffalo Pug and Small Breed Rescue Inc

Buffalos Best Bottles
Burroughs Audubon Nature Club
Buy Local, Grow Local
CAMDEN CANS & BOTTLE RETURN
Camden Cans & Bottle Returns
Campaign for Renewable Energy
Can Stop Redemption Center and Groceries, Inc.
Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition (CRICCC)
Cash For Cans Express Corp
Catholic Charities Tompkins/Tioga
Caz Cans LLC
Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY)
Center for Justice & Democracy
Center for Urban Environmental Reform
Center for Zero Waste Design
Church of St. Francis Xavier in Manhattan
Church Women United in New York State
Citizens Concerned About Plastic Pollution
City Tech Pride Club
Clean Air Action Network of Glens Falls
Clean Air Coalition of Western New York
Clean Bushwick Initiative
CLYNK
CNY Redemption
Coalition for Outreach, Policy & Education (COPE)
Coins to dollars redemption center
ColorBrightonGreen
Columbia County Reduces Waste--Bring Your Own (CCRW--BYO)
Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment
Community Beverage
Compost International
Corbitt's Corner
Corey Union- Cortland
Creating Change Redemption Center
criminal justice club
D & p recycle inc.
D.C Redemption
Data Science Club
Deep Green Resistance New York City
Deignan Institute for Earth and Spirit at Iona University
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society
Delta Phi Omega Sorority, Inc.

Democrats at Syracuse University
Don't Trash the Catskills
Duanesburg Redemption Bottle & Can Return
Earth & Me
Ecojustice Collaborative
Education Club
Elmirans & Friends Against Fracking
Elmsford Conservation Advisory Council
Engineering for a Sustainable Society
Environment Ministry of the Church of St. Francis Xavier in Manhattan
Environmental Action Coalition
Environmental Advocates NY
Environmental Alliance
Environmental Studies Student Organization
Exchange Redemption Inc
Express bottle return
Federated Conservationists of Westchester County
Five Cents Fast
For the Many
For Your Convenience
Fridays for Future Capital District NY
Friendly Game Community
Friends of MSF
Frye Road Redemption Center
Fultonville Redemption Center
Future Teachers Of Color
Glass Packaging Institute
Gliding Stars Inc
Gorilla Corps
Grassroots Environmental Education
Grassroots Gardens WNY
Greece Baptist Sustainability Team
Green Bottle Redemption Center
Green Education and Legal Fund
GREEN LEGACY EXPRESS INC
Green Map System
Green Spaces Club
Green World 168 LLC
GreeningUSA
GreenLatinos
Greenway Bottle and Can
Groundwork Hudson Valley
GSEU
Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Association
Hilltop Redemption
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

Impact 100 NYC
Indivisible New Rochelle
Indivisible Scarsdale
JK Peris, Inc.
Justice is Global
K-Pop at QC
Keep Rockland Beautiful
Kesem at Syracuse University
Lakeshore Bottle & Can Return Center
Lampros Solar
Law and Politics Club
League of Women Voters
League of Women Voters of Cortland County
League of Women Voters of New York State
LGBTQ+
Liberty Beer Depot Inc.
Livonia Redemption Center
Long Island Bottles and Cans
Long Island Bottles and Cans Inc
Lowville redemption center
Mammoth Recycling
MAPS (Minority Association of Prehealth Students)
Marihana Heloany Reis
Marine Biology Society
MASA
Mechatronics Club
Mega Beverage Redemption Center Inc
Middle Eastern and North African Student Association of Hunter College
Midstate Recycling LLC
Mohawk Redemption
MOSAIC
Mothers Out Front Dutchess Count
Mothers Out Front Tompkins
Mycology Club
NAACP
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club
Neighborhood redemption center
New Paltz Human Services Club
New Paltz Outing Club
New York Climate Action Group
New York Communities for Change (NYCC)
New York Progressive Action Network
New York Public Interest Research Group
New York State PTA
New Yorkers for Clean Power
Nickel and Dime Redemption Center

Nickel City Bottle and Can Redemption Center
Nickelback Bottle and Can Return
Nikko Gambino
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)
North Country Earth Action
North Shore Audubon Society
NYCD16 Indivisible
NYCD16/15 Indivisible
NYenvironcom
Oakie's Green Team
Olivia Dombek
Onondaga Audubon
Operation SPLASH
Orange RAP
Orangutan Outreach
Park Slope Neighbors
PAUSE (People of Albany United for Safe Energy) / 350Albany
People for a Healthy Environment
Peoples Climate Movement - NY
Pokemon Club
Poli Sci Club
Political Science and International Relations Association
Political Science Club
Pratt Institute Bee Club
Pre-Law Society
Protect the Adirondacks
Psychology Association
Putnam Progressives
QC Outdoors Club
QC Vox
Qomunidad
Queens College Political Science Club
Quick & Easy Bottle & Can Return
Quick & Easy Bottle Return
Quick Stop beverage and grocery
Rabideau Redemption
RAFT (Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga)
REDEEMER BOTTLE AND CAN RETURN CENTER
Redemption Hub
Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga (RAFT)
Righis Redemption centers llc
RISE (Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability and Equity)
Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith Circle
RLS Management Solutions LLC

Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action (RAICA)
Roctricity LLC
Roseadon Enterprises, Inc.
RPG Club
RWW
Safe Energy Rights Group
SAPHE
Saratoga Friends Meeting
Save the Pine Bush
Save the Sound
SDIPN! (Shut Down Indian Pt. NOW!)
Seatuck Environmental Association
SEEKERS Christian Fellowship
Seneca Lake Guardian
Shelly's redemption center
Shoulette's Redemption Depot
Shut Down Indian Point NOW!
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester
Skidmore College Environmental Action Club
Smitty's enterprises Inc.
Solarize Albany
Solidarity Committee of the Capital District
South Beach Civic Association
South Shore Audubon Society
St. Francis Xavier Church in Manhattan
Story of Stuff
Story of Stuff Project
Student Art Alliance
Student Government Association
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
SUNY New Paltz Environmental Task Force
SUNY New Paltz Young Democratic Socialists of America
Superior Redemption
Sure We Can
Surfrider Foundation Eastern Long Island Chapter
Surfrider Foundation New York City
Sustainable Putnam
Sustainable Rentals LLC
Sustainable Warwick
Syracuse Cultural Workers
Take Back The Night
Ten Lives Club
The Banner Newspaper

The Environmental Recycling of NY
The Exchange
The Fireflies: WIF
The Marketing Club
The Park Church
The Story of Stuff
The Wildlife Society at SUNY ESF
Third Act Rochester
Third Act Upstate New York
THRIVE (The Healing Resource Institute for Victim Empowerment)
TIAA-Divest!
TIAA-Divest! from climate destruction
Tim Malpo
Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative
Toxic Tech
TREEage
Two-Can Dan's Redemption Center
United AI
United Climate Action Network (UCAN)
United for Action
United Jewish Federation of Northeast New York
United Muslim Alliance of Albany
United University Professions (UUP)
Upper Green Side
Upper Nyack Green Committee
Upper West Side Recycling
Ursula Schwerin Library
UU Congregation of Binghamton, Green Sanctuary
Valcour Bottle redemption center
Vetrone's Redemption Center
W.I.S.E
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.
Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions (WASS)
Women's History Month Committee
Zero Waste Capital District
Zero Waste Columbia
Zero Waste Ithaca
Zero Waste Warren County