



February 6, 2018

The Honorable Thomas Saviello
Chairman
Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
c/o Legislative Information
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

The Honorable Ralph Tucker
Chairman
Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
c/o Legislative Information
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD 1703

Dear Chairs Saviello and Tucker:

On behalf of the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI), **I write in opposition to LD 1703**, which would reduce the value of the deposit from 15 to 5 cents for wine, liquor and larger beverage in the state's bottle bill recycling program. Maine's bottle bill recycling program high quality glass and other recyclables to manufacturing-based end markets.

GPI is the North American trade association for the glass container manufacturers, glass recyclers, and suppliers of materials, equipment and transport to the industry. The industry supplies America's leading beverage brands, and directly employees 18,000 Americans in glass container manufacturing and related recycling industries.

Maine's bottle bill recycling program is among the most successful in the nation, averaging a recovery rate of 90%. Reducing the amount of the deposit on any covered beverage containers may significantly decrease the overall recovery rate. The Container Recycling Institute estimates that reducing the value for wine and spirit containers could increase the amount of glass headed to the landfill by 8,000 tons annually.

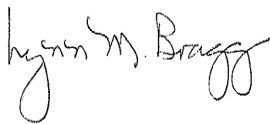
As drafted, the potential exists for these beverage containers to be removed from the program altogether. A deposit with a "refund value of no more than 5 cents",

(with no minimum value stated), could place the redemption value at zero. In addition to this drafting concern, legislators should be aware that other states, including Vermont, have different refund values for containers in their program. It's important to note that the higher the deposit value, the higher the redemption and recovery rate for the covered container.

GPI estimates as much as 80% of recycled glass used in the glass container manufacturing process is sourced from Maine and the 9 additional states with bottle bill programs. Demand for Maine's quality recycled glass by the glass container and other manufacturers across the country is very strong, with available and ready markets.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our comments to LD 1703. Please consider GPI and its member companies a resource and advocate for recycling related issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn M. Bragg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "L".

Lynn M. Bragg
President

Cc: Members, Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources