

# H.158: Updating and Modernizing the Bottle Bill



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# Consumers

H.158 creates convenience standards that the PRO must adhere to including:

- at least 3 redemption centers per county
- at least 1 redemption center per population of 7,000 or more
- redemption centers in dense areas

# 83%

support **updating** the Bottle Bill to include **more containers.**



just 15% **oppose** an update

# Redemption Centers & Retailers

## H.158:

- **Increases the volume of containers handled**
- **Increases worker efficiency by eliminating brand-sorting**
- **Ensures materials are picked up from redemption centers on a timely basis**
- **Exempts small and medium sized retailers**

Trombley, who had operated Hartford Redemption during the absence of a full-time employee, said the center's future sustainability hinges on staffing. Trombley lives in Vergennes, which is approximately 75 miles and a 90-minute to two-hour drive from White River Junction. In addition, the time Trombley must spend at one center keeps him from assisting at his other facilities.

Springfield Redemption is the largest and busiest of the Trombleys' centers, redeeming approximately 6 million to 7 million containers per year and requires a staff of three to four employees to operate.

Hartford Redemption redeems between 3 million to 4 million containers per year, Trombley said.

But without change at the state level to the bottle bill, redemption centers in Vermont are "a dying business," according to Trombley.

"Most people love redemption," he said. "But it's becoming more and more inconvenient."

**Jacob Trombley**  
**Owner of 5 Vermont Redemption Centers**  
**VT Digger, Dec 2022**

# Recyclers

September 13, 2021

**Leading Beverage Container Manufacturers Agree: Well-Designed Deposits Are Key to Getting More Containers Back for Recycling**

“The glass, metal and plastic PET container industries agree that deposit systems lead to higher recycling rates, as well as better quality, higher value material enabling circularity. We support efficient, effective deposit systems..”

“...there is a higher value for used beverage cans coming from deposit states versus those from non-deposit states, due to better consistency in quality...Vermont's deposit program is an important source for used beverage cans that are highly valued and sought after by aluminum suppliers. ”

Michael Smaha  
Vice President, Can Manufacturers Institute  
Written Testimony Apr. 11, 2023

“...there is no comparison in the quality of and breadth of end-markets available to the glass collected through the bottle bill glass when compared to commingled curbside glass. The recycling rate is higher, the cost to process is less, the markets are more robust and within the region, and the yield is far higher. ”

Scott DeFife  
President, Glass Packaging Institute  
Written Testimony Apr. 12, 2023

# Solid Waste Districts

**“ We would not see an increase in cost from expansion of the bottle bill. ...We're paying about \$65/ton to get rid of our glass, if we could cut that in half that would be a significant saving to us. ”**

**Paul Tomasi**  
Executive Director of the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District  
Exerpt from oral testimony to House Ways and Means March 15, 2023

**“ Glass is the most difficult and expensive material for us to manage and market. It's abrasive and hard on the equipment and requires a significant amount of screening to remove contaminants. Due to the difficult nature of managing glass in single stream recycling, we do support policies that both divert glass from the landfill and remove it from the MRF including an expansion of the bottle bill on wine. ”**

**Jennifer Holliday**  
Director, Chittenden Solid Waste District  
Written testimony Apr 14, 2023

# MRFs

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Glass is a hard to manage material with limited local markets, and Vermont should explore the wider variety of industry best practices to capture glass for reuse and recycling...Glass currently represents negative revenue to the MRF (i.e., pure cost). ... CSWD supports any system that will keep glass out of the blue bin program including expansion of the bottle bill to include more glass such as wine bottles.

”

Communication between VPIRG and CSWD re: CSWD's proposal to build a new MRF Oct. 1, 2023.

**Q:** Would the diversion of [additional containers] have a significant effect on the financial viability of the proposed new MRF?

**A: No,** because nearly 75% of material processed at the Williston MRF is paper and cardboard.

# Contact info

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