

To the Senate Natural Resource Committee

Thank you again for hearing my concerns and suggestions this week pertaining to modernizing the current bottle bill through updates found in H. 158. I want to reiterate that this bill as written would solve many of the problems that I and other redemption centers face, especially with the increase in the number of containers covered. These are simple solutions that should be enacted today to help redemption centers like mine across the state from the issues we are facing.

Support for H.158:

- We support the reduction of sorts in this bill because it will allow individual redemption centers to increase efficiency. The bonus is that this efficiency will carry over to Tomra as well.
- This bill requires producers to make sure redemption centers are not missing regular pickups, which will help those redemption centers that may have space issues.
- This bill increases the volume of containers that redemption centers would receive which would increase our profit margins so we can pay our current employees a fair wage, hire additional employees at a fair wage, and invest in technology that will increase efficiency. Increasing efficiency via technology allows us to be able to handle the expanded scope of material added per this bill.
- Increasing the handling fee for non-commingled containers until the PRO forms will help us with many of the same things stated above with the additional volume.

Additional suggestions:

- Raise the handling fee to 5 cents for commingle- allows us to pay our employees more, I am looking to give whole dollar raises here.

Question:

- Producer vs distributor responsibility- The way I understand it, the distributors are on the hook to pay this, where is the producer coming in to pay for this service, we are providing for them to be able to purchase clean recycled material from processors.

When I say the redemption business is dying, I mean it is getting harder and harder to run independent, strictly redemption centers that are not attached to a retail store. Increasing volume, raising the handling fee, and eliminating brand sorts will ensure that we can keep good employees and make us

efficient by allowing us to invest in technology which will help, alongside good workers. You can have large redemption hubs, but you still need small convenient redemption centers in towns collecting containers.

As a side note if anyone would like to visit any of our four redemption centers reach out at any time.

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