



60 Lake Street  
Burlington, Vermont 05401

802-658-3773  
www.seventhgeneration.com

S 208  
2-27-14

February 27, 2014

The Honorable Robert M. Hartwell, *Chair*  
Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Energy  
Vermont State House  
Montpelier, VT 05633

CC: Sen. Diane Snelling, *Vice Chair*  
Sen. Peter W. Galbraith  
Sen. Mark A. MacDonald  
Sen. John Rodgers, *Clerk*

RE: Senate Bill 208: An act relating to conservation and development; solid waste; beverage redemption; and recycling

Dear Senator Hartwell:

On behalf of Seventh Generation, I thank the Committee for this opportunity to testify in opposition to sections of S. 208, an act relating to conservation and development; solid waste; beverage redemption; and recycling.

Seventh Generation is the nation's leading brand of household and personal care products designed to help protect human health and the environment. Established in 1988, the Burlington, Vermont based company employs over 130 people, and remains an independent, privately-held company distributing products to natural food stores, supermarkets, mass merchants, and online retailers across the United States and Canada.

Among the products manufactured and sold by Seventh Generation are body and hand soaps, laundry detergents and dish detergents, packaged in high recycled content polyethylene terephthalate (PET, Resin Code 1) and high recycled content high density polyethylene (HDPE, Resin Code 2) bottles.

Having an assured supply of these recycled materials is critical to our business, and critical to the assured sustainability of all businesses. An assured and sustainable supply of recovered No. 1 and No. 2 resins is only possible if (1) recyclable plastic bottles are recovered after use, and (2) recovered plastic resins are of sufficiently high quality and sufficiently available they can be converted into *recyclable* bottles.

For these reasons, in addition to having high post-consumer *recycled* content, Seventh Generation bottles are also *recyclable*.

With respect to the proposed bill, S. 208, Seventh Generation holds the following points of view:



Seventh Generation supports requiring that solid waste districts annually submit to the Secretary of Natural Resources specified data regarding solid waste services. Only with timely and meaningful data can effective decisions be made.

Seventh Generation supports establishing a Solid Waste Infrastructure Assistance Fund to provide financial assistance to solid waste districts and municipalities to construct, develop, or acquire infrastructure needed to meet pending requirements for the collection and recycling of mandated recyclables, leaf and yard residuals, and food residuals.

Seventh Generation opposes amending the beverage container redemption system to repeal the deposit on liquor containers and to amend the definition of container to establish a volume limit for containers subject to deposit:

As evidenced in the testimony of Susan Collins, Container Recycling Institute, to this Committee on February 26, 2014, recovery of beverage containers in "deposit" states runs between 48% (PET) and 84% (aluminum) compared to 20% (PET) and 39% (aluminum) in "non-deposit" states. Deposits work.

Seventh Generation supports exempting solid waste transporters in a municipality from the requirement to offer to collect mandated recyclables separated from other solid waste as long as the subject municipalities and solid waste transporters implement alternative systems that fulfill the objectives of Act 148.

Thank you for your attention to, and consideration of, these comments.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin H. Wolf".

Martin H. Wolf  
Director, Product Sustainability & Authenticity