

S. 208
An act relating to Solid Waste Management
Amending the Beverage Container Redemption System
OPPOSE

February 24, 2014

Senator Robert Hartwell,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
Vermont State House
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-5301

Attn: Committee Assistant: **Katie Pickens**, kpickens@leg.state.vt.us

Dear Senator Hartwell,

The Aluminum Association represents United States manufacturers of aluminum, including the producers of sheet used to make beverage cans, and we thank you for the opportunity to submit opposing testimony to *S. 208, An act relating to Solid Waste Management Amending the Beverage Container Redemption System*. The Aluminum Association is committed to increased recycling of the aluminum beverage can not only for the myriad environmental advantages this practice provides, but also because this recycled material provides a vital feed stock into our manufacturing processes.

The Aluminum Association, opposes S. 208, and specifically objects to the language at Sec. 1521 Definitions, exempting containers above one liter in size.

As producers of the most recycled and highest value container in the recycling stream, we believe that Vermont should maintain its successful approach to container recycling. Vermont, like many states with deposit legislation, has a very high rate of beverage container recycling and is providing some of the highest quality material back to industry for recycling.

Repealing any part of the law would lead to a lower recycling rate in the state. Further, we believe exempting containers one liter in size or larger, or containers labeled as

“biodegradable,” could lead to consumer confusion and an unlevel playing field that could disadvantage aluminum cans, which are clearly the most recycled, and highest value container in the recycling stream. It is unclear why the authors would choose to exempt containers with a far lower recycled content..

Sixty-eight percent of the metal in aluminum beverage cans is recycled. Larger beverage containers, typically made from paper, plastic, or glass, generally have far lower amounts of recycled content. Vermont’s deposit system should maintain an even playing field for beverage container materials, and should, above all, not unfairly disadvantage materials which are already highly recycled.

The aluminum Association opposes S. 208 for these reasons. We urge Vermont to apply recycling policy equally across all materials and to reject exemptions for select containers.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heidi Brock". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Heidi B. Brock
President & CEO