



**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](mailto:kpickens@leg.state.vt.us)

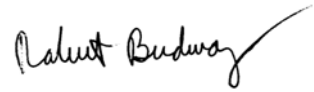
Dear Senator Hartwell,

The Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI) appreciates the opportunity to submit opposing testimony on LB 696, before the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy. We respectfully request that this letter be read into the record. CMI, the national trade association of the can manufacturing industry and its suppliers, is alarmed by the language of S.B. 208 amends the Vermont beverage container redemption system. CMI specifically objects to the language at *Sec. 1521 Definitions, exempting containers above one liter is size from the bill.* We believe if Vermont implements a beverage container deposit system, it should be applied to all containers, regardless of size. Exempting larger containers make little sense, as they would take up more landfill space and create more unsightly litter along Vermont's roads and highways.

Additionally, exempting larger containers which are usually made from plastic or paper cartons makes little environmental sense, as it punishes the aluminum can, which has the highest recycling rate in the United States. Our 67% recycling rate is unmatched and nearly double that of our competitor packages. The can's intrinsic economic value drives demand for used beverage cans and funds many charitable events such as scouting and school fundraisers activities. Indeed, the local Vermont schools (see attached) recycle aluminum cans and participate in CMI's national recycling contest. Their participation is a recognition of the aluminum cans high intrinsic value. Thus, if there was a package which should be exempted from the beverage container deposit system, it should be the aluminum beverage can.

In sum, CMI asks that you oppose this attempt to create special exemptions for different containers, especially for those which have not reached their recycling potential in Vermont. We urge you to treat all containers equally within the beverage container deposit system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Budway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Robert Budway  
President  
202-232-4677

## APPENDIX

We have five local schools registered from Vermont in the CMI Great American Can Roundup (GACR) School Challenge. The GACR program is designed to build enthusiasm about can recycling among a wide range of civic and community groups including schools, clubs, churches among others. In the 2012-2013 GACR School Challenge, the first place winner was Champlain Elementary recycling 175.35 pounds (6,062 cans) for a per student capita of 0.54 pounds. The second place runner up was Mount Anthony Union High School recycling 260.14 pounds (899,304 cans) for a per student capita of 0.41 pounds. At 0.05 cents per beverage can, the schools earned an estimated \$45,268 from recycling aluminum beverage cans. The participating schools are:

<u>School</u>	<u>City</u>
Rutland Middle School	Rutland
Essex Middle School	Essex
Champlain Elementary	Burlington
Hartford High School	White River Junction
Mount Anthony Union High	Bennington