

BEAUDRY'S STORE
2177 MAIN ROAD
HUNTINGTON, VERMONT 05462
(802) 434-2564.

April 26, 2018

Rep. David L Deen, Chair
Sen. Christopher Bray, Chair
House and Senate Committees on Natural Resources
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: Request to Change the Exemption Requirement for the Vermont's Beverage Container Law

Dear Sirs:

This letter is written to respectfully request that you make a change as to which stores are allowed to be exempted from Vermont's Beverage Container Law ("bottle bill").

I have owned Beaudry's Store for almost 40 years. It was purchased from the Beaudry family in 1978. There has been a store on this property since at least 1921.

In 1996 Beaudry's Store was honored as one of the first recipients of a Preservation Trust of Vermont and the Vermont Country Store Local Store Owners grant.

In 2002 my late husband (Terry Pecor) and I were presented with the Olga Hallock Community Service Award.

On September 21, 2008 the State of Vermont House of Representatives honored us with a Concurrent House Resolution (H.C.R 10), for being exemplary citizens of Huntington.

The process of accepting bottles is still very labor intensive and expensive on our end. Even with all of the revisions to the law over the years.

We try to only accept the products that we sell, but people still leave behind containers of products that we don't sell. Such as liquor bottles or soda cans from Rite Aid, Wal-Mart, Hannaford, and Shaws etc.

In addition people will leave behind containers of non-deposit items like cider, juice or water.

This means we either have to place them in with our weekly recycling or have an employee drive them to a recycling center that accepts them.

The handling of returnable bottles has become much more dangerous over the years. It has gone from having to deal with cans that have chewing tobacco in them, or have been used for target practice to now having hypodermic needles in them!!!

We started discussions and correspondence with Rebecca Webber and Cathy Jamison of the Solid Waste Program in September of 2017. They explained that exemptions may only be granted if my store was located within 5 miles of a state certified redemption center.

I still do not have a clear understanding of why 5 miles is the key to allowing the exemption. It seems arbitrary to me. Why not 2 miles why not 20 miles?

We applied formally for an exemption on October 2, 2017.

We were formally denied on November 16, 2017. The reason for the denial being we are located more than 5 miles from a certified redemption center.

During the process we brought to the Department's attention that a large convenience store chain was not accepting bottles. Due to our concerns a redemption center in Richmond was certified. That brought the large convenience chain into compliance but still did not help us.

The now certified redemption center is located 7.1 miles from my store, so we failed the exemptions requirement by 2.1 mile.

This is incredibly frustrating to me.

I am now surrounded by many big box chains. I believe that these chains are close enough to us; as to not to impose any undue hardship on our customers, if they were to take their bottles to one of them for redemption.

In Williston (less than 11 miles away) there are Hannaford, Shaw's, Rite-Aid, Simons, Jiffy Mart, Champlain Farms, Jolley, etc.

In Hinesburg (less than 9 miles away) there are Hannaford Lantman's, Kinney Drug, Short Stop, and Jiffy Mart.

Finally, in Richmond (less than 7 mile away) there is a Cumberland Farms and The Richmond Market which is part of the Comeau Village Market chain.

As to Certified Redemption Centers near us, on the link that was sent to us, I could find:

Beverage Warehouse in Winooski - (15 miles)

Bristol Redemption Center (Bristol Discount Beverage) in Bristol – (14 miles)

Shelburne Discount Beverage (Route 7 Liquor) in Shelburne – (13 miles)

Essex Discount Beverage in Essex - (13miles)
River Road Beverage and Redemption in Essex – (12 miles)
Lucky Spot Store in Richmond (7.2 Miles)

I know of one other Redemption Center close to us, but they are not on the list you sent:

Kwick Korner Market in Williston – (8 miles)

I am hoping that you can change the law to:

- enlarge the mileage area
- or allow one unit (non chain) convenience stores, what I call Country Stores or Mom & Pops to be exempted if they so desire
- or simply allow the Department to make the exemption if they feel it is the right things to do.

Again, it is incredibly frustrating that my small store has the expenses of bottle redemptions, but chains such as Kinney Drugs, Rite-Aid, Jiffy Stores, Simon Stores, and Cumberland Farms etc. do not.

It is simply unfair!!!

As one of the last family owned, one unit, “Mom and Pop” country stores left in Vermont. It would be a big benefit to us.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda O Pecor

Linda O Pecor
Owner