

Distinguished Representatives,

The Redemption Centers listed below all support the expansion of the types of beverages covered under the Vermont Bottle Bill as proposed in H.175. **We welcome any questions that legislators may have about how this will impact our businesses.**

First, we support the overall mission of the legislation to improve recycling in Vermont and ensure that our roads and waterways are free of cans and bottles. With the expansion beyond carbonated beverages to bottled water, juices, sports drinks and wine, we expect H.175 to increase redemption volumes. **With a year to prepare for the expansion, we are prepared to make the changes necessary to serve our redemption customers well and provide clean streams of high-quality recyclables to TOMRA and the beverage manufacturers.**

Expanding the types of beverages covered under the Bottle Bill is a common-sense compromise among the various constituents such as beverage manufacturers, redemption centers, solid waste districts and the people of Vermont and their environment. It provides a much-needed update to Vermont's only Extended Producer Responsibility program for containers, where the beverage industry is held accountable for ensuring the closed-loop recycling of the materials they create.

Upon passage, **we urge the Legislature to include an education element to the expansion**, informing Redemption Centers, consumers and all other stakeholders of the changes in the law, any new responsibilities, and the implementation timeline. Because many of us will need additional space to store the redeemed material and will need to adjust our pickups with TOMRA, providing as much notice as possible will be critical.

Lastly, we urge the Legislature to amend the bill to **increase the handling fee** so that the fee for commingled containers is 4.5 cents and the fee for non-commingled containers is 5.5 cents. **The handling fee hasn't been increased in twelve years.** It is essential that the handling fee increases with inflation so we can sustain our businesses and pay our workers a living wage. If the Legislature hopes to increase the number and capacity of redemption centers in high density areas that currently have few or none (like downtown Burlington), the handling fee must increase so the business model is viable.

Sincerely,

**Landon Thompson, Smith's Grocery**  
767 Main St. Greensboro Bend, 802-533-2631

**Wayne Blanchard, Londonderry Redemption**  
2022 North Main St. Londonderry, 802-379-1116

**Jeffery Cole, Lyndonville Redemption Center**  
406 Broad St. Lyndonville, 802-626-8348

**Walt & Ginny Cueman, Manchester Discount Beverage**  
380 Depot St. Manchester Ctr. 802-362-1571

**Joe Catronio, Middlebury Discount Beverage**  
21 MacIntyre Ln. Middlebury, 802-388-6068

**Vishal Saini, Rene's Discount Beverage**  
105 River St. Milton, 802-893-7534

**Robert Harrington, Beverage Baron**  
411 North Main St. Barre, 802-479-9227

**David Begin, Beecher Falls Beverage & Redemption**  
22 River Rd. Beecher Falls, 802-266-3650

**Jacob Trombley, Valley Redemption**  
85 K.D. Welch Service Rd. Bradford, 802-885-3101

**Hartford Redemption**  
2590 North Hartland Rd. White River Jct., 802-295-4900

**Springfield Redemption**  
6 Chester Rd. Springfield, 802-885-3101

**William Johnson, Green Power Returnables**  
366 Main St. Enosburg Falls, 802-735-5049

**Mark Kittell, Central Beverage**  
4 Central St. Essex Jct., 802-324-1676

**Mindy & Matt Fitzpatrick, WCS Redemption\***  
23 Main St. Wardsboro, 802-896-6411  
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**Bob Moreau, Bob's M&M Redemption Center**  
4 Salisbury St. Randolph, 802-728-9197

**Ross Arsenault, Beverage Mart**  
203 Lake Street St. Albans, 802-527-7437

**Thomas Patton, White River Redemption**  
1167-69 Hartford Ave. White River Jct., 603-359-7808

**Richard Tenney, Tenney Bottle Redemption**  
76 Jackson Hill Rd. Charlotte, 802-425-2180

**Adam Laperle, Bristol Redemption Center**  
21 Prince Lane Bristol, 802-453-3990

**Phuong Lam, Spring Beverage Warehouse**  
1130 North Ave. Burlington, 802-355-6323

**Rob Adams, Bill Miles, and John Langhus, Putney Road Redemption Center**  
36 Noah's Lane Brattleboro, 802-299-6643

**Joey Cuce, Cap N' Cork**  
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**Kevin Kittell, Essex Discount Beverage**  
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**George Bergin, Beverage Warehouse**  
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**Rodney Companion, Rodney's Rubbish**  
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**Linda Buck, The Stinky Can Redemption Center**  
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**Joseph Sessock, Beverage King**  
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**Paul Ashline, Hometown Sunoco**  
166 First St. Swanton, 802-868-3909

**Irena & Bohumil Obdralek, Bottle Redeemers**  
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