

Thompson's Redemption & Convenience, Inc.
3731 US 5
Derby, Vt. 05829

Feb. 21,2023

Regarding H.158; an Act Relating to Beverage Container Redemption System

Following is provided by Larry Thompson, President and owner of Thompson's Redemption & Convenience and Raymond Thompson, Vice President.

We are located in the Northeast Kingdom about 7 miles from the Canadian border and 25 miles from NH.

Our redemption center of 1,700 sq. feet is 1/3 of our store footprint. We typically process 10,000 Vt. returnable containers per day or 3,650,000/yr. We operate 13 hours per day 7 days a week.

We have been in operation since 2006 when purchased as an established business. We operate a convenience store including the sale of of gas and a bottle redemption center. We employ 13 workers who share in the overall duties of our business as a full service gas station, typical convenience store activities, and the bottle room on an on-going basis.

My concern with the proposed changes to the existing system is the cost to ramp up to handle the anticipated volume increase of 200 to 300 percent. I believe the rough estimates noted are related to the inclusion of currently non returnable empties of all consumable liquid (less milk, dairy, baby formula).

We have our empties picked up by Tomra on a twice per week schedule and use half to two thirds of the trailer each pick up.

For us to manage the additional volume we would likely need to add 2 or 3 additional workers. At todays Vt. minimum wage of 13.18/hr (\$27,400 in base wages per year) and projected to increase annually it becomes a concern without any increase in handling fee reimbursement. In addition we would need almost daily pick ups. These are estimated projection but seem reasonable to me.

The details in the Act that I read indicated a potential 1 cent per container increase for non comingled containers. I feel this should be a minimum and should include all containers not just non comingled. The current handling reimbursement rate of 3.5 cents for comingled and 4 cents for non comingled has not changed in years even as labor rates have risen dramatically.

We agree with the concept of including additional containers to the system as it been very successful in keeping these containers out of the waste

stream. More volume is a good thing for all parties and with a proper and fair reimbursement rate we would support H.158

Thank you for your time to consider our input. I would like to see a final draft before committing to full support. of H.158

Larry Thompson