

May 20, 2011

Chillmark Board of Selectmen,

As you may know, the Bottle Bill is the common name for the Massachusetts Beverage Container Recovery Law of 1982, Massachusetts General Law (MGL) c.94, s.321-327. The law imposes a refundable \$.05 deposit on beer and soda containers thus providing a financial incentive for the consumer to return them for recycling. A bill proposing an update to that law, to expand the kinds of containers covered by that deposit to include water bottles, sports drinks, and similar beverages has been pending in the Legislature since 1996.

This letter serves as a request for the Town of Chillmark to pass the enclosed resolution, in order to demonstrate support for the updated bottle bill and help get it passed. The support of cities and towns is crucial to the effort to get this bill through the Legislature. The Bottle Bill reduces litter, increases recycling, and saves cities and towns money in clean up and disposal costs, which is why the Mass Municipal Association and 145 cities and towns have already endorsed this effort. In addition, in a recent poll conducted by the MassINC Polling Group, 77% of the public said they supported an update.

Enclosed you will find a sample resolution, a fact sheet on the Updated Bottle Bill, and a list of endorsers. Please contact me with any questions or information needed. You can mail completed resolutions to MASSPIRG at 44 Winter St., 4th floor, Boston, MA 02108, or fax to 617-292-8057. If you have already passed the resolution, thank you! Please send confirmation to the same address.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

Colleen Spivey
MASSPIRG