

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A CONTAINER LAW FOR WEST VIRGINIA

TO: Governor Joe Manchin  
State Legislators  
Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin  
House Speaker Richard Thompson

WHEREAS, for over thirty years bottle bills have been extremely effective at achieving their economic, social and environmental goals. The 11 states with deposit laws recycle more containers than all the other 39 states combined, and;

WHEREAS, citizens from across the state are concerned about litter on our highways and in our neighborhoods, and;

WHEREAS, West Virginia has limited landfill capacities and new landfill construction is increasingly cost prohibitive. Container laws divert waste from disposal thus reducing solid waste management costs and reducing our need for new landfill construction, and;

WHEREAS, container laws in other states have produced a recycling rate of up to 80% for glass, aluminum and plastic containers, thus dramatically reducing litter in communities and on their highways, and;

WHEREAS, container laws place the burden of recycling on the consumer and the bottler instead of the community and its taxpayers, and;

WHEREAS, states with deposit laws have higher participation rates in residential recycling than those of non-deposit states.

WHEREAS, recycling and source reduction are the major components of the West Virginia Recycling Act, which mandates recycling goals of 30% by January 1, 2000 and 50% by January 1, 2010. Based on published reports for the 10 bottle bill states, West Virginia's beverage container recovery rate would increase between 50% and 75% with the adoption of a Beverage Container Law, and;

WHEREAS, a West Virginia Beverage Container Deposit Law would result in local economic development through the establishment of redemption centers, creating jobs in the private sector, including employment for those with disabilities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that \_\_\_\_\_ fully supports a statewide container law for West Virginia where consumers would pay a deposit on containers which is refunded when they return them.