



## *National Supermarket Association*

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### **MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION**

The National Supermarkets Association, Inc. (NSA) represents the interests of over 400 independent supermarket owners, all of whom oppose the expansion of the Bottle Bill. This bill proposes to expand the Bottle Law to include all beverages including juice and water, specifically, all beverages sold in any glass, metal or plastic container less than one gallon except for dairy products, infant formula, wine and liquor. Expansion unnecessarily competes with curbside collection which remains a viable solution to explore.

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Executive Director

This bill will place grocery stores in the awful position of annually redeeming between 1.1 billion and 1.9 billion new containers. It will overwhelm our already strained supermarket storage facilities, particularly in New York City, where many of our members' stores have limited space. It will further compromise store sanitation and food safety and compel stores to use more pesticides to cope with increased infestation, possibly causing unfortunate outbreaks of vermin and rodents in some areas -- all while increasing recycling by less than two tenths of 1%. We hardly think this bill is worth the decrease in both air quality and overall quality of life for communities that are already struggling with those very issues.

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The taxpayers most likely to be affected by the long lines and the additional litter caused by the frustration of the long lines, are the very ones that would be better served by the expansion of the curbside recycling program. It is a fact that the lower income communities suffer greatest from respiratory disease largely associated with questionable air quality. Adding pesticides and additional products to battle infestation and sanitation challenges will simply add to the debilitating respiratory ailments of these communities and their children.

This Bill doesn't make for good consumer policy and we oppose this measure until the storage and sanitation issues are addressed. At a time when supermarkets' closing in urban areas is an epidemic, we urge you to reject this measure and support our communities.

National Supermarket Association

*Capture the Wealth of Opportunities*