



# Northwestern Connecticut Council of Governments

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March 10, 2003

Senator Donald E. Williams  
Room 3200  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: House Bill #6044

Dear Senator Williams:

The Northwestern Ct. Council of Governments is writing to you to request your support for House Bill #6044 "An Act Concerning Bottle Escheats and the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority". This bill would use unclaimed bottle deposit money to reduce the tipping fees paid by municipalities to the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority and other resource recovery authorities. It is expected that CRRA will be increasing its fees to the towns in the new fiscal year.

As it now stands, unclaimed bottle deposits represent a windfall for the bottlers and distributors. This has been the case for 25 years. Municipalities, however, remain responsible for the cost of collecting, transporting and disposing of bottles that are not returned.

Other bills have proposed that would have the unclaimed bottle deposits be returned to the State General Fund, even though the State has no responsibility for the costs of dealing with the bottles that are thrown in the trash. The Council of Governments is blatantly against any such action by the State, which would further erode our ability to meet our fiscal responsibilities. In all fairness, the unclaimed deposits should go to those who are responsible for dealing with the bottles that enter the waste stream, namely the municipalities.

Towns as well as the State are facing fiscal problems. Returning unclaimed bottle deposit money to the municipalities would be a small positive step among many other budgetary initiatives, which are negatively impacting our local taxpayers.

We look forward to your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Val Bernardoni*

Val Bernardoni, 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman, Salisbury  
Chairman, Northwestern Ct. Council of Governments