



Collaborative Solid Waste Strategies • PO Box 6163 • Penacook, NH 03303 • www.cswnh.org

January 20, 2025

The Honorable John Hunt
House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee
Granite Place Room 229
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Comments on HB 1679 establishing a beverage container redemption program.

Dear Chair Hunt and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 1679 on behalf of Collaborative Solid Waste Strategies. We are a New Hampshire-based non-profit environmental organization dedicated to promoting sustainable management of solid waste.

HB 1679 would establish a beverage container redemption program in the department of environmental services. While Collaborative Solid Waste Strategies (CSWS) supports the concept of a beverage container redemption program for New Hampshire, we have several concerns with this bill as proposed.

We believe that redemption centers should be the primary, if not sole entities responsible for accepting eligible empty containers for redemption. Placing this burden directly on retailers creates multiple problems, including storage and sanitation, not to mention the time involved in processing the redemption. We recommend revising HB1679 to provide that retailers *may* install reverse vending machines (which accept, identify, and compact empty containers and provide a deposit refund) on their premises, and that redemption centers *shall* accept and redeem containers regardless of where purchased.

The bill needs to provide greater clarity regarding enforceable actions and subject parties, more detail on the responsibilities of redemption centers, and the process by which funds move between distributors, retailers, consumers, and redemption centers or reverse vending machines.

We also suggest that the Committee consider a more comprehensive list of eligible beverages. Other states include wine coolers, distilled spirits coolers, and “nips,” and specifically mention juices, flavored waters, and seltzer waters.

We recommend that the Committee investigate equivalent laws in other states and identify the most effective elements of those programs for adoption in New Hampshire.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on HB1679 and your consideration of these comments during your deliberations on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clark T. Corson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clark T. Corson
Program Director