

Creek End Sustainability Solutions, LLC

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Korn@nysenate.gov and financechair@nysenate.gov

Re: Written Testimony on the effects of redemption center and Public Protection; Creek End Sustainability Solutions, LLC

To the distinguished Chairs and members of the committees on Public Protection & Finance,

My name is Peter Baker, and I am a partner and operator of Creek End Sustainability Solutions, LLC which owns and operates a local community-based container redemption center in Hamburg, NY called Can Bottle Return.

As a single operation, Can Bottle Return in Hamburg, NY helped divert over 45 million containers to initiators to be reused, and recycled in 2025 *while providing 17 full time positions* and creating an incubator for a donation/fundraising environment that exceeds \$150k per year. With inflationary pressures and no handling fees or any meaningful changes to the Bottle Bill since 2009 – which is causing community redemption centers to close (25% of brick & mortar centers statewide).

This untenable paradigm makes it nearly impossible to say we are protecting the public or the consumer in any way because as more redemption centers close consumers will be given no chance to redeem money to a system they have already paid into – especially in rural areas that have been hit the hardest.

As more community redemption centers cease to operate, the State will continue to see an uptick in beverage containers not being reused and/or recycled, further intensifying the eco challenges the State already and further harming the public:

- Health challenges related to pollution and microplastics
- Less supplemental income in underserved communities – including donation/fundraising efforts
- Working against long- and short-term landfill objectives
- Plastic and aluminum as added pollution in natural environments like forests, green spaces, parks, waterways, streams, beaches, lakes, open spaces, streets, and the ocean

In turn, New Yorkers will have to face the harm caused by this through higher taxes and living standards.

To best protect the public from the errors of the past and the exacerbating measures of the future, as a sustainability operator/consultant/investor, the way forward is passage of the Glick Bottle Bill (**A6543/S5684**) as the ultimate solution. Support and co-sponsorship for this bill will greatly protect the public from getting their container deposits back, dissolve future environmental concerns over time, and allow a green circular economy to figure out the challenges of the next era.

The Vision to imagine a state redemption system that's fully equipped to manage the volume of containers of the day and of the future, and the courage to believe that what operators are looking for is not a handout, but instead

something more. A **hand-up** to be a part of helping shape the future of the circular economy in the Empire State. And there are thousands of us across the state ready to tackle this challenge – willing to add more of us to employment rolls statewide.

^{2nd}, it's long past time Lawmakers pass an updated version of the Beverage Container Law through the Bigger, Better, Bottle Bill considering contemporary packages, new beverages, added container types, and an updated deposit amount that incentivizes consumers to act after their beverage purchases. This is all addressed in the Glick/May Bill (A6543/S5684) for passage, and we are looking at more senators and assembly members to cosponsor.

I want to thank the Chairs and the distinguished members of this panel for their time and understanding. We can move a lot of what I proposed ahead of the bigger, better, bottle bill so that when the BBBB does become law, redemption centers across the state are both solvent and ready for the challenges of the day and the future.

Support for these measures, both through the budget and through the legislation, a new industry can break through the surface ushering in a new era of a Green Economy working with technology while holding true to customer principles and practices while that protects the public through accessibility, ease of use, honesty, and a reduction in pollution.

Sincerely,



Peter J Baker
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Can Bottle Return
RAD Recyclers
Paradigm Logistics
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