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NYS Recycling Hearing

Good Afternoon Senator Kaminsky, Assemblyman Englebright and all other members of environmental conservation commits. My name is Martin Naro, Founder and President of EvTek. I want to start by thanking both the NYS assembly and senate for putting together this forum today. It takes the collaboration of great minds to come up with the most innovative and effective solutions to deal with our modern day recycling crisis. Forums like this will ensure a cleaner and more sustainable future for generations to come.

I started EvTek because I believe recycling should be natural, convenient, and accessible to all people, organizations and companies. Through the use of educational tools and immediate gratification incentives we will naturally guide the masses to adopt and part take in effective recycling systems. We are dedicated to creating and implementing these technological recycling systems.

Throughout the past few months we have worked with the Town of East Hampton, The town of Sag Harbor, the Dublin Deck (the largest buyer of Corona), SUSA Athletic club, Brad stock music festival and Brentwood Highschool. Together we have been able to implement new recycling programs that diverted nearly 35 tons of recyclable material away from the incinerator plants and to our partnered redemption center, All Deposit of Long Island based out of Brentwood and MRF All Container Recovery of Bayshore.

One of the largest components to our success has been the bottle bill. The 5-cent deposit on beverage containers offers enough incentive for some companies to restructure their waste flow to ensure that this material does not go into the garbage. However the majority of companies who are not currently interested in restructuring their waste flow to keep these containers out of the garbage said that if there was a 10 cent deposit on material they would be more likely to recycle that material through our program.

The bottle bill is great because it ensures that all most all of the material that runs through it is truly recycled. This is mainly because of the minimal contamination rate that allows the material to be more valuable for example; The container recycling Institute states PET plastic from container deposit programs typically sells for 40% more than the curbside PET and Curbside glass Costs \$20/ton to recycle - when markets can be found for it all - versus deposit glass that has a \$20/ton scrap value.

This clearly shows us that material has a higher value when it is recycled through the redemption system.

The contamination rates of bottle bill material is almost always lower then that of single stream and dual stream. The container-recycling.org states that MRFs often feel that they intake less material because of bottle bills. According to the Eureka Recycling study in Minnesota,

source-separated MRFs lost only 1.6% of materials to residuals or out throws, compared to 10%-12% for each of the four tested forms of dual-stream collection; and 27.2% for the three single-stream systems. So even though the single-stream systems showed a 20.8% increase in tonnage collected, they also showed a net decrease of 12.2% in overall tons recycled.

This data states that although it seems like curbside collection systems recycle more tonnage, the fact is because of contamination rates curbside programs regardless of it being single stream or dual stream recycling, they have significantly lower ratios for recycling material compared to redemption systems.

Now it is clear that the environment is a winner with the bottle bill, but there are more benefits. The Container Recycling Institute (CRI), states that different recycling methods create different numbers of jobs, and deposit-return systems create 11 to 38 times more jobs than a curbside recycling system relative to beverage containers, with the range due to system parameters and system performance.

The study explains that the primary driver of jobs in any recycling system is the sheer volume of material entering the system. Container deposit-return (CDR) systems generate dramatically higher volumes of beverage containers than curbside systems, an average of 76 percent recovery in CDR states compared to just 24 percent recovery in non-CDR states.

The secondary driver of container-recycling jobs is the number of full-time-equivalent (FTE) workers needed to collect, sort and transport the materials. CDR systems, in which containers are handled more or less individually, employ an average of 7.34 FTEs per 1,000 tons of containers, while curbside systems require an average of 1.66 FTEs in an automated system and 4.46 FTEs in a manual system.

Glass bottles manufactured in a CDR state have six times more recycled content than bottles made in a state without a container deposit (72 percent vs 12 percent). The study also looked at beverage container recycling using virgin raw materials. It found that ten times more US workers are employed in recycling PET than in producing an equivalent

An expansion of the bottle bill is a no brainer. In fact most people would agree. The DEC found that 70% of respondents in NYS support expanding the Bottle Bill to include non-carbonated beverages such as fruit drinks, iced teas, and sports drinks; and 81% of respondents agreed that curbside recycling by itself is not enough to control litter in New York State.

I have spoken with roughly 80 companies within the past couple months and I ask them all the same question, do you recycle. Almost every company I spoke with ranging from car washes, to gyms and restaurants say no, not really, but that they would like to if it was convenient. The only companies whom I spoke with who do recycle single use containers are bars and restaurants that purchase alcoholic beverage container frequently. They will save the containers until a new shipment of full containers come in, at that time the distributor will discount their new bill for fresh beverages.

Our service makes it easier and allows them to do it more conveniently. We provide them recycling containers and a small custom holding bin for them to store their single use containers. In addition, we are working on technology that can track the amount of material that participating commercial locations recycle. After the material is processed we will be able to transfer their 5-cent deposit and recycling metrics to them digitally. This is allowing them to receive immediate gratification and documentation stating how much energy, water and CO2 emissions they are able to save.

The expansion of the Bottle Bill will help grow our outreach. Schools want recycling programs and through redeeming beverage containers they are able to self fund these programs. They can use the deposit money for scholarships, providing aid to members in the community going through hardship, or to increase their recycling infrastructure. Instead when they do not have effective recycling programs, they are incentivized by this current system to follow the "when it doubt throw it out model".

The expansion of the bottle bill would ensure that more people have jobs, there is less pollution in oceans, more material is being sustainability recycled inside the United States and more money would be generated for our circular economy. With the money that the states raises from the non-redeemed containers, it can go towards efforts such as buying land for environmental conservation, provide grant money for expansion of recycling education, and used to host challenges to inspire the creation of new recycling technologies and systems.

When NYS expands the Bottle Bill it will be heard across the world. We are world renowned and seen as leaders across the country. Lets send a message that we are also environmental leaders who don't just talk the talk but walk the walk. Together we can expand the Bottle Bill, together we can change the status quote, together we can be world leaders for sustainability.