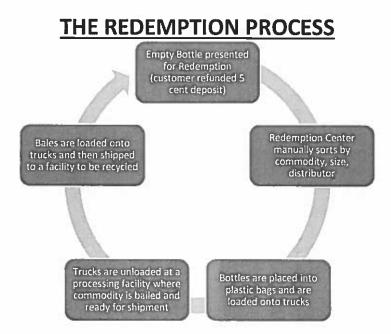
## Mega Beverage Redemption Center Inc 121 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Mount Vernon, New York 10550

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- Redemption Centers are predominantly manual operations. Technology has unsuccessfully been introduced which resulted in a tremendous amount of wasted resources throughout the redemption process.
- Redemption centers have not received a raise in the container handling fee-which is there only source of revenue-in 10 years. <u>Labor represents over 65%</u> of a redemption centers overhead and <u>labor expenses have doubled</u> since the last handling fee increase in 2009.
- With the expansion of the bottle bill, New York State must protect Redemption Centers.
  - Redemption centers are subject to abuse by large beverage distributors (deposit initiators) and are often victims of unfair treatment as a result of their inability to defend themselves. Mega Beverage Redemption Center Inc. vs. Nestle Waters N.A. et al.
    + Mega Beverage Redemption Center Inc vs D. Bertoline + Sons Inc.
  - The handling fee needs to be increased to allow Redemption Centers to remain in business.
  - Deposit initiators must be held accountable for their obligations through provisions in the law that protect the integrity of the oversight in the redemption process
  - o Proposed amendments unfairly advantage the deposit originators
  - Thousands of poor and homeless "canners" depend on the availability of redemption center
  - Redemption centers function as a safety valve for smaller retailers that lack space to store returned containers.

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