



April 1, 2022

The Honorable Pat Grassley
Iowa House, Speaker
1007 E Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

The Honorable Brian Lohse
Iowa House, Information Technology Committee Chairman
1007 E Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Re: Comments for SF2378 and HF2571 – Changes to Iowa’s Bottle Bill Program

Dear Speaker Grassley and Chairman Lohse:

On behalf of our associations and member companies, we write to share our perspective on two bills under consideration in the legislature, **SF2378** and **HF2571**. Both of these bills would make significant changes to the state’s bottle bill program. Our association’s collective members are long-time supporters of Iowa’s beverage container deposit program, which provides essential raw and recycled materials to manufacturing industries across the Midwest.

Our supply chain and manufacturing member companies heavily rely on the high-quality recyclable materials provided by Iowa’s beverage container deposit program, such as aluminum, glass, and polyethylene terephthalate (or PET plastic). The higher quality of material generated by redemption programs versus single-stream curbside is indisputable, and ensures a steady flow of recyclable materials through all of our supply chains, in support of our food and beverage customers. Redemption and recovery of recyclable beverage containers also assists the state, as part of ongoing efforts, to achieve its 50% recycling goal.

We strongly oppose **SF2378**, as it would significantly weaken Iowa’s bottle bill recycling program, greatly deter and inconvenience residents from redeeming their containers, compromise the state’s connected recycling infrastructure and reduce the number of beverage containers redeemed.

SF2378 removes requirements for all retail stores and similar outlets to redeem covered beverage containers, when a consumer comes to receive their 5-cent deposit back.

This carveout would leave more than 3 million Iowans relying on approximately 60 redemption centers to receive their deposit back. As a consequence, roadside litter and landfill disposal of

beverage containers would increase, recycling (and program redemption rates) would dramatically drop, and the critical supply chains that the Midwest-based manufacturing industries that purchase the high-quality container recyclables threatened.

While we also share similar concerns with respect to **HF2571**, we acknowledge that the retail redemption exemption is generally limited to smaller retail spaces. That noted, the requirement to redeem being removed from all retailers with under 5,000 or less square footage would also dramatically reduce opportunities for Iowans to redeem their beverage containers.

HF2571 would extend the convenience zone standard (the general requirement for points of redemption) to either 10 or 15 miles, depending upon the county's population. We believe that this extension would result in Iowans redeeming fewer containers.

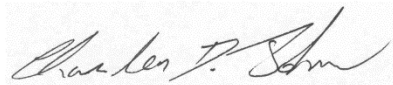
Ten miles is a considerable distance to travel in the higher populated areas of the state, and runs counter to the concept of consumer convenience. We ask that this be reduced to five miles for more populated counties, to encourage and make beverage container redemption.

HF2571 would also establish a Fiscal Legislative Committee, to review the impact of changes to the bottle bill program, and would increase the handling fee for all points of redemption to 2 cents per container. While we cannot support the House bill in its current form, we do believe this oversight and financial redemption support would be helpful.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Respectfully,

Charles Johnson



President and CEO
Aluminum Association

Robert Budway



President
Can Manufacturers Institute

Scott DeFife



President
Glass Packaging Institute

Darrel Collier



Executive Director
National Association for PET
Container Resources