

To co-chairs Senator Brenner and Representative Gramlich and the distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, we the undersigned redemption center owners are writing to express our support for LD 1909, An Act to Modernize Maine's Beverage Container Redemption Law, sponsored by Representative Allison Hepler

We want to thank each of you for your support of our small businesses with your unanimous approval of LD 134. It was crucial for us to get the increased handling fee so that we can continue to support our hardworking employees and keep the Bottle Bill going.

Many of us are unable to take off work and travel to Augusta to speak in support of LD 1909, but we want you to know why this bill is very important to our businesses and the work that redemption centers do to employ people, recycle, reduce litter, and facilitate charitable giving in Maine.

- Maintains the handling fee increase that you just supported in LD 134, and it ties the handling fee amount to inflation so that we no longer have to worry about whether or not we can keep up with the rising costs of rent, utilities, and labor.
- Provides an additional one penny to us for every container that is processed through a reverse vending machine. These are expensive machines, but they help to count containers and reduce storage space. This money is paid for from the unclaimed deposits.
- Provides for the cost of plastic bags, which is a significant expense. This is also paid for from the unclaimed deposits.
- Significantly reduces the tedious sorting so that we only have to sort by material type and size. This makes training new people much easier for us.
- Requires timelier pick-up and payment of containers so that we aren't waiting so long to be reimbursed for the containers that were redeemed at our businesses and paid the handling fee.

We encourage you to move quickly to pass LD 1909 out of Committee so it can be voted on by the Legislature. Thank you for all the work you are doing to strengthen the Bottle Bill program and protect our small businesses.

Sincerely,

Beth Rowell
BC Redemption
Sangerville

Trish Kelly Bouton
Boots Bounty
Portland

William Holmes, David Robbins, & Shanda Christopher
Bottles 'N Cans, LLC
Bridgton

Shawn Burdin
Bwarts Redemption
Dexter

Ron Conley
Coastal Discount Beverage & Redemption Inc
Biddeford

Chris Reynolds
Cutler Village Redemption
Cutler

James Damon & Donald Damon
Damon's Beverage
Waterville

Jenny Sharrow
Dover Redemption
Dover-Foxcroft

Kent Good
Florence Avenue Redemption
Houlton

Peter Welch
Gaia, LLC d/b/a Forest Avenue Redemption Center
Portland

Shandra Rubchinuk & Jason Curtis
Jansel Bottle Redemption
Winthrop

Justin Hersey
JJ's Redemption
Fort Fairfield

Robert Morgan
Little River Redemption
Belfast

Tara Weeks
MT Bottle Redemption
Lewiston

Amanda & Tod Roddy
Roddy's Redemption
South China

Brenda Luker
The Bottle Genie
Princeton

Jean Collins
Union Redemption
Union