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MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Jen Holliday
Date: February 19, 2020
Re: Board Resolution

Attached for your consideration is a Board Resolution regarding the bottle bill. It was staff's impression last fall when we discussed the bottle bill that the Board does not support an expansion because it would be more costly for our members and remove valuable material from the MRF.

The intended use of the Resolution would be to provide it to legislators if a proposal to expand the bottle bill is anticipated to come up on the floor of the Senate or House. There are several bills that propose expansion, but none have been taken up in committees to date and time is running out for new bills to pass out of committees. However, amendments to other bills can be made on the floor anytime during the session and an expanded bottle bill proposal could come up on the floor without any discussions in a committee. Without a discussion in committee, CSWD loses its opportunity to inform legislators on the impact of such a proposal.

This Resolution helps to inform lawmakers and sends a clear message to our delegation that CSWD does not support an expansion of the bottle bill but does support efforts to address the challenges associated with all packaging such as extended producer responsibility.



RESOLUTION of BOARD of COMMISSIONERS of

CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

Representing the towns of Bolton, Burlington, Charlotte, Colchester, Essex, Essex Junction, Hinesburg, Huntington, Jericho, Milton, Richmond, Shelburne, South Burlington, St. George, Underhill, Westford, Williston and Winooski

Whereas, the Chittenden Solid Waste District (“CSWD”) was created by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont for the purpose of providing for the efficient, economical and environmentally sound management of solid waste generated by member municipalities and residents, and

Whereas, CSWD has invested in solid waste infrastructure to meet the requirements set forth by the State including over \$7 million in a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) that processes over 50% of the residential recycling generated in the State of Vermont, and

Whereas, recycling costs are at an historical high due to international policies and many communities in Vermont pay more to recycle than landfill material, and

Whereas, an expansion of the bottle bill to include more plastic and aluminum beverage containers will divert valuable material away from the municipal recycling stream into the private sector bottle bill system, driving costs of recycling higher in the State, and

Whereas, according to the State of Vermont 2018 Waste Characterization Report, only 1.1% of the material being landfilled would be subject to an expanded bottle bill, and 0.7% of the material being landfilled is currently subject to the bottle bill therefore, expansion of the bottle bill would have an insignificant impact on material diverted from the landfill, and

Whereas, the bottle bill lacks convenience and efficiencies that the recycling system provides, and

Whereas, according to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Systems Analysis of the Impact of Act 148 on Solid Waste Management in Vermont 2013 Report, the existing bottle bill increases the system-wide costs for solid waste management by \$124.2 million annually and,

Whereas, the majority of packaging is not beverage containers and all packaging has environmental and financial costs associated with its use and end-of-life management. The manufacturers that use packaging should bear the responsibility for the end-of-life management and associated cost of their packaging.

Now Therefore be it Resolved that the Chittenden Solid Waste District Board of Commissioners opposes adding any new beverage products being sold in plastic and aluminum packaging to the beverage container law. The Board of Commissioners encourages the General Assembly to consider policies that will address greater systemic solid waste challenges, particularly a vehicle like extended producer responsibility for all packaging.

This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

**CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT RESOLUTION
DECLARATION OF OFFICIAL INTENT**

Dated the 26th day of February 2020.

Signature of Commissioner

Signature of Commissioner

Signature of Commissioner

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