



May 20, 2009

Hon. Malcolm A. Smith
New York State Senate Majority Leader
909 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

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Dear Majority Leader Smith:

The Women's City Club of New York has long supported the expansion of recycling through the "Bigger Better Bottle Bill," and was pleased to see the enactment earlier this year of a law that achieves many of the benefits of that proposal (Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2009). We are now concerned that recent recommendations for delay of implementation, limitations on the numbers of bottle returns that some retailers must accept, reduced payments to some retailers for handling the returns and elimination of the requirement for the UPC bar codes needed for mechanical processing of returns, will significantly weaken the impact of that legislation.

The benefits of recycling are well established. Recycling saves energy, decreases emissions of greenhouse gases, reduces the need for landfill, incineration and transport of solid waste, conserves natural resources and helps sustain the environment for future generations.

The Women's City Club of New York is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, founded in 1915, that has shaped public policy in many areas of contemporary concern to improve the lives of New Yorkers. Today, one of our priorities is the need for environmental initiatives to ensure a long-term sustainable future for our City. The expansion of recycling through the Bigger Better Bottle Bill took years to achieve. We urge you not to support recent proposals that would delay or reduce its impact.

Sincerely,

Ruth E. Acker
President

Joan S. Freilich
Chair, Infrastructure Committee