



March 11, 2009

Hon. David A. Paterson
Governor of the State of New York
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

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RE: Support the "Bigger Better Bottle Bill" (A8055A/S5850A)

Dear Governor Paterson:

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.

We urge you to pass the "Bigger Better Bottle Bill" (A8055A/ S5850A), to update New York State's bottle deposit law and close the "litter loophole." By enlarging the list of cans and bottles that could be redeemed for a nickel to include bottled water and sports drinks, the Bigger Better Bottle Bill would add as many as five billion more cans and bottles to the nine billion that now carry the nickel deposit. This would significantly reduce litter in the state, increase recycling efforts, and enhance the protection of our natural resources.

The expansion of the bottle deposit law would also generate more than \$200 million annually to support clean air, water, parks and open spaces, by requiring beverage companies to transfer unclaimed bottle deposits to the state's Environmental Protection Fund. This would help ensure that we continue the fight to protect our environment, even in a time of financial distress.

Please help make New York a healthier and more environmentally responsible place by signing into law the Bigger Better Bottle Bill.

Sincerely,

Ruth E. Acker
President

Joan Freilich
Chair, Infrastructure Committee