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Texas Bottle Bill March Update

2013

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**IMPERATIVE: If You Only Do One Thing,
Ask the Committee Chairs for a Hearing on Deposits:**
It's now or never! **We must get a hearing to move forward.** Help us deliver the truth to the committee chairs:

Senate Committee on Finance, Chair,
[Sen. Tommy Williams](#) (512) 463-0104
or tommy.williams@senate.state.tx.us
and

House Environmental Regulation Committee, Chair,
[Rep. Patricia Harless](#) (512) 463-0496
or patricia.harless@house.state.tx.us.

Tell the committee chairs the FACTS about deposits:

- Refundable deposits are NOT like tobacco or gasoline taxes. A more fair comparison is the deposit on a keg or a tuxedo. When they are returned, you get the deposit back.
- [**New TLCV Recycling Study Shows Positive Economic Impact Through A Beverage Container Deposit Program.**](#)
The study (conducted by Austin-based firm TXP) showed Texas would see **2,300 jobs created and \$373 million in economic activity IN THE FIRST YEAR**, and a reduction in beverage container litter of up to 80%. Separately, we have seen NO documentation showing the retail or beverage industry losing sales or employees with deposit systems. Overall, **more jobs will be created** as local container collection centers open, [similar to this one](#) and recycling processors expand.

- So sad, there is **NO curbside for**: ditches, storm drains, multi-family dwellings, businesses, parks, beaches, tailgating, bars, restaurants, schools, bike trails, campgrounds, etc. Only 24% of Texas has curbside, participation rate is about 33%, and that "feedstock" is not of the highest quality. A deposit system delivers the highest VOLUME and highest QUALITY of material to awaiting industries.



- Fraud is addressed by checking for TxDL/plates, limiting pounds brought in, and incentivize redemption center owners to report fraud (out of state containers).

Who's Speaking in the Halls in Austin When We are NOT?

The grocery industry (HEB, Kroger, etc.) and the beverage industry (Anheuser Bush, Coke, Nestle, Silver Eagle, etc.) are canvassing the halls of the capitol. These industries make LARGE campaign contributions to ensure their voice is heard. Regarding SB 645 and HB 1473, these big businesses **make claims such as**:



- "It is a tax"
- "Deposits cost them sales and employees"
- "Curbside is the better answer than deposits"
- "Fraud will be too great with deposits (with out-of-state containers being redeemed in Texas illegally)"

Smart Students Earn Big Bucks 1 Nickel at a Time



Burchett Elementary showed outstanding performance in a community fundraiser event. As revealed in the [VIDEO "One Nickel @ a Time,"](#) they showed how schools and nonprofits can use beverage container recycling as fund-raisers. The Spring TX school earned **\$1,213**. The school proved students and their

families can team up to raise funds AND support recycling. [Seeing is believing!](#)



Welcome 5 New Counties Supporting Refundable Deposits!

We are proud to welcome the counties of **Comanche, Culberson, Edwards, Hudspeth, and Lampasas** to [our growing list of endorsements](#). THANK YOU for being a part of

the solution!

Sign, Comment, & Share! Make the Legislators Aware!

Our online petition is growing daily. We are tweeting the



Team Up for Texas!



Share your photos.

Use your camera phone (or an *actual* camera) to take pictures and then share with us.

comments and sending them to the committees and bill sponsors. **PLEASE take a second to add your name**, comment, and then share it with your organization and friends.

http://signon.org/sign/establish-texas-beverage?source=s.fwd&r_by=5737282



We Have a Foot-in-the-Door



The bill has been filed! **Now we need the key legislators to hold a hearing. Call, write, or email the committee today!** [HB 1473 in Committee on Environmental Regulation](#) and [SB 645 in Committee on Finance](#). No hearing means the bill dies (and ugly scenes like this continue).

9 New Stakeholders for Deposit Legislation

New Stakeholders benefit from Deposit Legislation. It is no longer only about the beverage industry and the retailers. The NEW stakeholders include:

- 1) Waterways and marine life.
- 2) Cities spending tax dollars for storm drain and litter clean up to minimize flooding.
- 3) 1000's of Volunteers who participate in 1000's of clean ups - PREVENTION is the key!
- 4) Schools and nonprofits able to use container drives as fund-raisers year round.
- 5) Entrepreneurs wanting to open small businesses to collect the empty beverage containers.
- 6) Recycling industries, needing the materials to meet their recycling content goals.
- 7) Every outdoor enthusiast or tourist that paddles, bikes, camps, fishes, watches birds, enjoys bluebonnets, or visits our parks.
- 8) Every child that needs the opportunity to understand that recycling can be easy, not hard.
- 9) You! You, and all the other 26 million Texans!



Texas Research Reveals Majority Favor Refundable Deposit

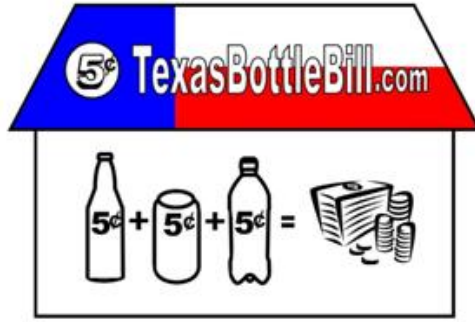
Baselice & Associates' [survey](#) shows 62% of Texans favor a refundable deposit program.

Links to the Deposit Bills

See the actual text of the bills here: [HB 1473](#) and [SB 645](#)

ACTION ITEM:

The BEST thing you can do now is **call the committee chairs to ask for a Hearing on Deposits**. **Senate Committee on Finance**, Chair, Sen. Tommy Williams (512) 463-0104, and **House Environmental Regulation Committee**, Chair, Rep. Patricia Harless (512) 463-0496.



Less litter in our waters. Cleaner Texas.

"Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed individuals to change the world, indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

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