



Texas Bottle Bill

The **Texas Beverage Container Recycling Incentive**, [HB 1473](#) and [SB 645](#), were both left pending in committee. That status, "in committee," is significant. To put it in perspective, more than **4,000** bills were filed in the House, and close to 2000 in the Senate. HB 1473 and SB 645 were among the privileged few to be referred to a committee. Even fewer still are actually awarded a hearing (as both HB 1473 and SB 645 were).

- We applaud Representative [Eddie Rodriguez](#), and Senator [Rodney Ellis](#), for believing in the Texas Bottle Bill initiative; and for carrying it to the House Environmental Regulations Committee and the Senate Finance Sub Committee.
- We applaud the 1000's of petition signers on our web page, the Sign-On Petition, and pages of collected signatures from our festival booths. **You made a difference!** Every call, every email, every Facebook share, gave our voice more strength and volume!
- We'd like to thank the [54 Commissioners Courts and 13 cities](#), that signed resolutions supporting a beverage container refund program. They understand the need, and the benefits, of such a program to diminish their litter, its cost and create good local jobs!
- We cherish our relationship with Texas PTA, as it was clearly demonstrated that schools throughout Texas would generate \$1000's of dollars for their [individual campuses](#) utilizing container drives as fund raisers. All 5 branches of the Texas Surfriders, Port of Houston Authority, Lone Star Sierra Club, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Sea Turtle Restoration, Healthy Gulf, Galveston Park Board of Trustees, Houston Audubon, Reterra Industry, Strategic Materials, We Can Recycle, and the Bayou Land Conservancy are just some of our steadfast supporters that are standing by for 2015.
- We would also like to thank those who testified on our behalf: **Lynn Bragg** from the Glass Packaging Inst., **Trammell S. Crow**, **Bob Gedert** from City of Austin, **Steve Huff** from Bayou Preservation Assoc., **Guy Jackson** from Galveston Bay Assoc., **Ellis Picket** from Surfriders, **Claudia Russell** from Owens Illinois, **Tex Corley** for CRI, **David Hudson** from Strategic Materials, **Mark Austin** from We Can Recycle, **David Weinburg** Exec. Dir. TLCV, along with our staff and founder **Mike Garver**. Thank you all!



We came for a second session, played well and hard, learned more rules of the game, made more friends, and educated many! We plan on taking the trophy in 2015! Our team is growing! It's a challenging process and we will need you all the way there!

In the next phase, we will be reaching out to more businesses (local and statewide) focusing on Texas data, educating those with questions, partnering with winners, and expanding our presence in Austin. We will continue to urge public participation in the democratic process with phone calls, letters, and visits to personal legislators; for without your participation in this democracy, there will be no democracy.

Keep checking our [website](#), and sharing our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) postings! Print our [newsletter](#), take it to your office, and pass it along. Please visit [your legislators](#) (when they get back into their local offices) and always remember your voice is important.

The Texas Bottle Bill Team thanks each and everyone of YOU.

We ARE going to take 'em back in Texas in 2015!



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