

NRC Weighs in on Question 2

The commissioners of the Wellesley Natural Resources Commission recently voted unanimously in favor of a resolution to support State Ballot Question 2, which would expand the current beverage container deposit law, known as “the Bottle Bill.”

The current law, enacted in 1981, covers only carbonated beverage containers; the updated version would include non-carbonated, non-alcoholic beverages such as water, sports drinks, tea, and juice. (It would exclude beverage containers for dairy products.) The current Bottle Bill has already demonstrated that the deposit system is very effective in reducing litter and increasing recycling rates: 80 percent of the containers covered by the current system are recycled, whereas only 23 percent of the containers that do not carry a deposit are recycled. The law simply needs to catch up with the beverage market, which is now dominated by bottled water and other products that barely existed in the 1980s.

Walking around Wellesley, we see dozens of plastic bottles in the gutters and parks. We need a strong incentive to get those bottles into the recycling system and we are confident that a nickel deposit will do just that. Consumers will be able to recover their nickels by returning empty bottles to the store, just as they do now with carbonated beverage containers. We hope you will join us in voting “yes” on Question 2 on November 4th.

Sincerely,

Heidi Gross, Chair

Stephen Murphy, Vice Chair

Joan Gaughan, Commissioner

Raina McManus, Commissioner

Lise Olney, Commissioner