



Mass Audubon

*AN ACT UPDATING THE BOTTLE BILL (S. 1650, H. 890)*

**Lead sponsors: Senator Cynthia Creem (D-Newton) and Representative Alice Wolf (D-Cambridge)**

**Bottle Bill programs work.** Since the Bottle Bill's inception in 1983, over 30 *billion* containers have been redeemed, contributing to a healthier environment, and cleaner and safer communities. It is Massachusetts' most successful and effective recycling program – **but now that 1/3 of our containers are not covered by the 27-year old law, we need to update it.** The bill would (a.) expand the bottle bill to include a 5 ¢ deposit on water, sports drinks, flavored teas, juices, and other on the go beverages; (b.) re-establish the Clean Environment Fund, using forfeited deposits to improve recycling and other environmental projects rather than having all forfeited deposits go directly into the state's General Fund; (c.) provide relief to redemption centers, who have not had a raise in 20 years. This bill does not increase the 5¢ deposit, nor cost the state any money.

**The Bottle Bill creates green jobs.** Job gains have been shown in nearly every state that updates their deposit system. Many of these jobs come in the recycling sector.

**Saves cities and towns money.** Updating our bottle bill will boost recycling, save our communities the cost associated with disposal and litter cleanup, estimated at 4-7 million annually.

**Has Strong public support.** A recent poll showed that 77% of Massachusetts residents support updating the bottle bill, seeing the positive effect that it's had on the environment.

**Saves petroleum.** Plastic bottles are made of 99% petroleum - what an inappropriate waste to bury our valuable oil in landfills or burn it out or incinerators.

**Decreases landfill use.** The state is running out of landfill space. The 1.1 billion containers that we send to landfills every year would fill Fenway Park to overflowing.

**Endorsed by over 150 cities and towns, and by over 50 advocacy groups throughout the state.**

**Endorsers** Governor Deval Patrick, Mayor Thomas Menino, City of Boston, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
**Supporters** Massachusetts Sierra Club, MASSPIRG, MassRecycle, Mass Audubon, Environmental League of Massachusetts, League of Women Voters, Massachusetts Surfrider Foundation, Appalachian Mountain Club, Arborway Coalition, Berkshire Environmental Action Team, Blackstone River Watershed Association, Boston Building Materials Cooperative, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance, Building Materials Resource Center, Charles River Conservancy, Charles River Watershed Association, Conservation Law Foundation, Clean Water Action, Earth Circle Conservation & Recycling, Earth Emerson, Emerald Necklace Conservancy, Environment Massachusetts, Environmental League of Massachusetts, Fairhaven Sustainability Committee, Franklin Park Coalition, Friends of the Blue Hills, Friends of Mary Cummings Park, Green for a Change, Green Hanson, Greener Hull, Housing for All, Hull Land Conservation Trust, Jewish Alliance for Law & Social Action, Jones River Watershed Association, KAPOWW (Kids Advocating Protection of Our Waters and Wells), Lawrence Environmental Action, League of Women Voters, Massachusetts, Mass Climate Action Network, Mass League of Environmental Voters, Mass Municipal Association, Mass Redemption Coalition, Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions, Massachusetts Municipal Association, Massachusetts Sierra Club, MASSPIRG, MassRecycle, Merrimack River Watershed Council, Metro Mayors Coalition, Advisory Board, Neponset River Watershed Association, New England Joint Board - UNITE HERE, North South River Watershed Association, Quincy Environmental Network, Responsible Energy Alternatives Coalition of Hingham, Salem Sound Coastwatch, SAVE (Saugus Action Volunteers for the Environment), Sharon Friends of Conservation, Sheffield Land Trust, Sherborn Recycling Committee, Somerville Climate Action, South Shore Recycling Cooperative, Sustainable Braintree, Sustainable Duxbury, Sustainable South Shore, Taunton River Watershed Association, The Esplanade Association, Toxics Action Center, Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee, Watertown Citizens for Environmental Safety

For more information, contact Mass Audubon's legislative director Jen Ryan at 617-523-8448, [jryan@massaudubon.org](mailto:jryan@massaudubon.org) and visit [www.bottlebill.org](http://www.bottlebill.org).

March 2011