



February 27, 2017

The Honorable Ross Paustian
Chairman, House Environmental Protection Committee
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Chairman Paustian:

On behalf of the Midwestern union members (Central States Protective League) for the glass container industry, we want to express our strong support for Iowa's bottle bill program. **We oppose House Study Bill 163, which would repeal the bottle bill program, and jeopardize the quality of recycled glass throughout the state.**

Iowa's bottle bill program is among the most successful in the nation, averaging a recovery rate over 85%. Roughly 65%-80% of the recycled glass re-melted to produce new bottles and jars is sourced from Iowa and the 9 additional states with bottle bill programs. **Demand for Iowa's recycled glass from the glass container industry is strong, and exceeds supply.**

A prime reason for the success of this program is that collected containers are generally kept separate from other recyclables, drastically reducing contamination and providing them the best opportunity to return to a manufacturing process. Rescinding Iowa's bottle bill program will increase contamination of glass and other recyclables in the collection and sorting processes, and result in more additional recyclables headed to the landfill.

The men and women of the glass container industry are proud to make a quality package. Quality packaging requires quality feedstock for manufacturers.

We want to see Iowa continue to be a part of that recyclable stream. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Regards,

Scott

Scott Brownfield
President, Central States Protective League