

In regards to Raised Bill No. 1037

March 18, 2021

Dear Environment Committee Members,

The Shelton Litter Committee supports an expansion of the bottle deposit fee onto currently exempt containers (such as so-called “nippers”) as well as an increase in the fee to adjust for inflation.

We have been battling litter in Shelton for over ten years by encouraging hundreds of local volunteers to clean up their streets and parks through our “Clean Sweep” and “Adopt-a-Street” programs. What we have heard from these volunteers, over and over again, is that non-deposit beverage containers make up a large proportion of the litter items, especially so-called ‘nippers.’

We have found that containers with a deposit are sought out and collected from our public areas. So even if an empty Pepsi bottle is tossed from a car window, it still has value and there is a good chance it will be ‘harvested’ for the deposit. The late Richard Belden, our state representative, famously collected bottles along the street for their deposit, which he donated to charity. As a result, when volunteers clean up the streets in their neighborhood, there is less litter to pick up. Thank you for your support in this matter, as we look forward to working together for a cleaner environment.

Thank you,

*Gil Pastore*

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Shelton, Anti-Litter Committee