



April 3, 2020

The Honorable Kim Reynolds  
Governor of the State of Iowa  
1007 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319

**Re: Importance of Iowa’s Beverage Container Deposit Program to Essential Supply & Manufacturing Operations**

Dear Governor Reynolds,

On behalf of our trade associations and member companies, we write to highlight the critical role Iowa’s beverage container deposit program plays in supporting essential manufacturing business operations.

Beverage container redemption programs, **including Iowa’s, provide critical inputs and feedstock for essential manufacturing businesses and their customers** (food and beverage companies), as detailed in the CISA directive, issued by the Department of Homeland Security on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**The CISA Memorandum explicitly states:**

*“If you work in a critical infrastructure industry, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule.”*

**Our Ask**

We ask that Iowa consider the following, with respect to the beverage container deposit program:

1. Clear communication to stakeholders that the beverage container redemption program has not been repealed, and remains state law.

2. Consider publishing a list (online resource) with updated information on return and/or redemption options during this temporary timeframe.
3. Provide information to consumers on where they may be able to recycle beverage containers now (i.e. available drop-off, curbside) or guidance to hold for when programs resume normal operations.

We also ask for Iowa's continued engagement with recycling and manufacturing supply chain industries regarding any future program operational changes, prior to implementation. Further, any permanent changes sought for Iowa's beverage container redemption program should be done through the legislative process, and not via petitions or similar avenues.

### **Recycled Materials as Part of the Essential Manufacturing Supply Chain**

To date, all issued local and state executive orders regarding essential businesses and shelter in place orders have recognized food and beverage manufacturing companies, along with their supply chain partners, as essential businesses and operations. This supply chain for food and beverage companies includes companies that collect, process and otherwise handle recyclables across the country.

Beverage container deposit systems generally account for 20-60% of our collective materials input batch, and Iowa is a key beverage container deposit state. The high quality of recyclables collected and purchased by our industries from these beverage container deposit programs are generally unmatched, require very little sortation and can go quickly back into our manufacturing processes. Simply put, as our industries have ramped up production to meet unprecedented demand for packaged food and beverages, a strong, dependable supply chain of recycled material is essential.

### **Beverage Container Deposit Program Enforcement Changes and Clarity**

We understand the significant pressure on many of the retail and grocery outlets, as they keep pace with customer demand, and at the same time, protect the health of their workforce. As organizations representing essential manufacturing companies that supply the food and beverage packaging sold by grocery and retail outlets, our member companies are also addressing and adjusting to these challenges.

There is no evidence that COVID-19 is spread or communicated through the population when beverage containers are returned and/or redeemed through deposit programs. In fact, there are viable redemption avenues, including reverse vending machines, that entail minimal or no contact between the returned container and the retail or redemption center employee.

Our supply chain and manufacturing member companies rely on the high-quality recyclable materials provided by Iowa's beverage container deposit program. Ensuring a steady flow of

recyclable materials through all our supply chains will greatly assist us in support of our food and beverage customers.

Thank you,

Robert Budway



President  
Can Manufacturers Institute

Darrel Collier



Executive Director  
National Association for  
PET Container Resources

Scott DeFife



President  
Glass Packaging Institute