



April 27, 2020

Scott Wilson
Manager
Beverage Container Redemption Program
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: In Support of Maine's Beverage Container Deposit Program

Dear Mr. Wilson,

On behalf of our trade associations and member companies, we write to highlight the critical role Maine's beverage container deposit program plays in supporting essential manufacturing business operations, and to ask that the program continue to provide beverage container redemption and return options for consumers, with safety measures and other appropriate protocol in place.

Beverage container redemption programs, **including Maine's, provide critical inputs and feedstock for essential manufacturing businesses and their customers** (food and beverage companies), as recognized in all guidance and updates, issued by the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA).

In addition, the Coronavirus Guidance for America highlighted our essential customer bases;

"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."

We ask the Department of Environmental Protection consider the following, with respect to the beverage container deposit program:

1. Clear communication to consumers and all stakeholders that the beverage container redemption program has not been repealed and remains state law. Our organizations have developed an infographic (accompanying our letter), that your Department is welcome to use as appropriate.
2. Publication of an online resource, with updated information on return and/or redemption options, openings and similar hours adjustments, and any other temporary changes made in response to COVID-19. An online resource would help reduce confusion for Maine residents

regarding where they can take their containers, and capture more of the material currently being lost.

Recycled Materials as Part of the Essential Manufacturing Supply Chain

We understand the significant pressure on the redemption, 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 food and beverage packaging to our customers, our member companies are also addressing and adjusting to these challenges.

To date, all local and state executive orders regarding businesses 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 and programs 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 Maine is a key beverage container deposit state. The high quality of recyclables collected and purchased by our industries from these programs 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.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Tom Dobbins



President and CEO
Aluminum Association

Robert Budway



President
Can Manufacturers Institute

Scott DeFife



President
Glass Packaging Institute

Darrel Collier



Executive Director
National Association for PET
Container Resources

Cc: Paula Clark, Maine Department of Environmental Protection



What to Do With Beverage Containers in Deposit States During Coronavirus

BEST OPTION	If...	Then...	
	<p>...your local redemption center is still operating</p>	<p>...take it to your local redemption center to get your money</p>	
OTHER OPTIONS	<p>...your local redemption center is no longer operating and there isn't another one nearby</p>	<p>...consider holding onto as many beverage containers as you can for later redemption once the local redemption centers become available again</p>	
		<p>OR</p> <p>...put your beverage container in your curbside bin or take it to a drop-off center</p>	

Why bother returning containers to be recycled?

1. It's real money that is owed to you and can add up.
2. Recycling beverage containers is good for the environment.
3. Manufacturers **NEED** that material to make more of the packaging people **NEED** during this crisis.