



*February 28, 2019*

The Honorable Dean Fisher  
Chairman  
House Committee on Environmental Protection  
Iowa Capitol  
RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult  
Des Moines, IA 50319

**Re: Testimony in Support of House File 181**

Dear Chairman Fisher:

On behalf of the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI), **I write in strong support for House File 181**, legislation to strengthen the state's bottle bill recycling program.

GPI is the North American trade association for the glass container manufacturers, glass recyclers, and suppliers of materials, equipment and transport to the industry. The industry supplies America's leading beverage brands, and directly employs 16,000 Americans in glass container manufacturing and related recycling industries.

Iowa's bottle bill recycling program remains among the most successful in the nation, with roughly 71 percent of covered beverage containers redeemed each year. The program keeps an estimated 1.65 billion containers out of landfills and waterways each year. **Glass bottles redeemed through Iowa's bottle bill program** are part of a critical supply chain, and a key manufacturing input in the manufacture of glass containers and fiberglass insulation throughout the Midwest.

As you know, the entire recycling supply chain is experiencing enormous challenges due to increased quality specifications issued by the Chinese government. This policy has had a negative impact on both domestic and international recyclable markets. House File 181's proposed expansion to include more beverage container types would result in a cleaner curbside recycling stream, increasing the yield and recovery of all recyclables.

House File 181's modernization of the bottle bill recycling program also retains the critical "return to retail" option for consumers. This will ensure that

consumers in all regions of the state will continue to have accessible and convenient beverage container redemption options.

House File 181 also recognizes the need to increase the handling fee payment made to redemption centers and retailers, increasing it from 1 to 2 cents per container. This handling fee increase is long overdue, and has not been adjusted since the program began 40 years ago. The increase will assist redemption center owners and retailers support their operations, employees and ongoing program maintenance costs.

We will continue to voice our support for collaborative efforts to strengthen Iowa's bottle bill recycling program, and appreciate the thoughtful approach taken by your legislation.

Sincerely,

Joe

Joseph J. Cattaneo  
Executive Director

Cc: Members, Iowa House Committee on Environmental Protection