



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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PLASTICS ORDINANCES

TO: All local Leagues in Minnesota with special alert to League members in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

FROM: Jane McWilliams, Legislative Coordinator, 507/645-8423
Linda Peck, Natural Resources Chair, 612/685-3365

DATE: February 7, 1989

LWVMN Position: Support of measures to reduce the generation of solid waste.

Issue: Support the passage of the plastics ordinances in St. Paul and Minneapolis. These ordinances would prohibit the use of certain packaging material for food and beverages sold at retail, i.e. passage would support environmentally acceptable packaging which means packaging that is degradable, returnable and/or recyclable.

Action: 1) Write an individual letter of support (or call). Send a letter of support from your local League and solicit such letters from other local groups. Addresses and phone numbers are:

Minneapolis City Council Members
City Hall, Room 307
350 So. 5th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55414
Phone: 612/358-3000

St. Paul City Council Members
City Hall & Court House
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102
Phone: 612/298-4473

- 2) If possible, attend one or both of the public hearings on the ordinances and speak in support. The opposition will be out in force.

Ordinance Hearing Minneapolis
Thurs., Feb. 16th at 5 p.m.
Room 329 City Hall

Ordinance Hearing St. Paul
Wed., Feb. 15th at 9 a.m.
City Council Room, 3rd Floor

Background Material: In 1987, more than 53 billion pounds of plastic resins were sold in the United States. These resins were mixed, molded and shaped into thousands of different kinds of plastic products - from sandwich bags and styrofoam cups to epoxy glues and polyurethane foam seat cushions. Plastics in 1986 made up approximately 7 percent of the solid waste stream in the U.S. BUT it is the fastest growing segment of the packaging industry! On the average, each American uses and discards 60 pounds of plastic packaging a year. Predictions are that plastics will take over a larger and larger share of the packaging market - mostly at the expense of steel cans and glass containers which are presently recyclable.

The burden of safe disposal and recycling of these products lies predominantly with individual communities - cities, counties - some entrepreneurs and concerned legislators. Sorely missing is any major role played by the manufacturing sector itself in making their products more recyclable or by the distributing sector in getting the materials out of the waste stream. In fact, these will be the major groups opposing the ordinances trying to be passed.

It appears that valiant attempts by local governments around the state to set in motion waste reduction and recycling options may never outpace the flow of plastic wastes unless industry confronts the problem more directly itself. Unfortunately, something must be done to attract their attention - something to make them start now incorporating recyclability and environmental acceptability in their packaging versus continuing the present trend toward non-recyclable packaging.

The Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis are attempting to provide the something that will turn the manufacturers' focus around. Each city is currently considering an ordinance that would prohibit certain types of plastic packaging used in the food service industry. If passed, the ordinances would send a clear message to manufacturers that making recyclable packaging more available to the consumer is in and continuing the increase in non-recyclable packaging is out. Passage in the Twin Cities could send a ripple effect across the state with other cities and possible counties passing similar directives.

Testimony before the
House of Representatives
Environmental Protection Subcommittee
by Virginia Sweeny, Environmental Lobbyist
March 15, 1989

Senator Dahl and members of the committee, my name is Virginia Sweeny and I am here today as a volunteer lobbyist for the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

The League enthusiastically supports SF 371. Our 3,000 members all over Minnesota have long supported measures to reduce the mountains of garbage being generated in our state and we are greatly heartened by the comprehensive approach taken in the SCORE bill.

The fact that the legislation is based on recommendations endorsed by the very varied interests in the SCORE group cannot be overemphasized. This is an exceptional consensus which we hope you will protect by preserving all the major initiatives in the SCORE bill.

Two factors I would like to address today are funding and the problem materials tax.

The League of Women Voters strongly supports funding which is closely connected to the behavior of the consumer, and which is made very visible to her or him. I may think recycling is a very good idea but never quite get around to doing it, but if it saves me money, I will probably start recycling very quickly.

In the same way, the League hopes you will support the problem materials tax to make the consumer aware that the disposal problem exists, and to provide money to help deal with that problem. Most of us consumers don't even realize that we shouldn't throw our batteries, etc. into our trash cans...and we wouldn't know what else to do with them anyway. If you show us the problem and give us a disposal option, I'm sure we can comply.

Again, the League of Women Voters extends congratulations and support to all of you for the comprehensive and far-sighted approach you are taking to the crucial issue of waste reduction and recycling.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

106 COMO AVE. • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55103 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

February 11, 1988

The Honorable Rudy Perpich
Governor of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Perpich:

Thank you for proposing passage of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Bill of 1988 and explaining the important impact this legislation will have on maintaining our environment and encouraging economic development. Support for this legislation is the number one priority for the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

It was so encouraging to hear you speak for waste reduction and recycling in your State of the State speech.

Sincerely,

Joan Higinbotham
Joan Higinbotham
President

Linda Peck
Linda Peck
Natural Resources Director

H:P/rk

JH
CH
LP
files ✓

#1 ACTION PRIORITY
WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING

TO: Local League Presidents

FROM: Carolyn Hendrixson, Legislative Coordinator

DATE: January 26, 1988

We are beginning to meet with legislators at the Capitol about the Waste Reduction and Recycling Bill of 1988. It is going to be very important to generate local letters and phone calls on this issue. We need to demonstrate constituent support for this important environmental issue. Our first step is to identify one person in each League who cares about the issue and who will be willing to "rally" local League members to action with timely letters and phone calls.

When you have identified this person please make sure they have a copy of the summary of the bill which was included in the last president's mailing and forward their name to the state League office.

Thanks! We can make miraculous things happen, but only with the action of all our members.

Please return as soon as possible to: LWMMN
106 Como Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103

Waste Reduction & Recycling Bill

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: day _____ evening _____

Local League: _____



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

106 COMO AVE. • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55103 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

January 8, 1988

Dear Brooklyn Center City Council Member:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota (LWVMN) has a long-standing interest in waste management, specifically in assuring that alternatives to landfilling solid waste be developed throughout the state. This means that options such as waste reduction, recycling, composting and energy recovery be made viable and competitive with raw landfilling. Unfortunately, we see an uneven implementation of these options around the state: options are materializing more rapidly in the large metropolitan areas and lagging dramatically in greater Minnesota.

In May, the Citizen's League published a report entitled "THE NEW WEIGH TO RECYCLE." Much of this report we applaud; however, we feel its overall thrust is too parochial. For example, the report implies that successful recycling programs will be seriously impaired if a state container deposit bill is passed. LWVMN disagrees. We feel that a container deposit bill and recycling efforts together form a "dynamic duo" when well planned and managed. Oregon has had a deposit bill in place since 1972. Today, Oregon also has the most comprehensive recycling legislation on the books and one of the most successful programs. Enactment of a deposit bill by the Minnesota legislature can immediately enhance waste reduction efforts throughout the state and can stimulate additional alternatives to landfills for greater Minnesota.

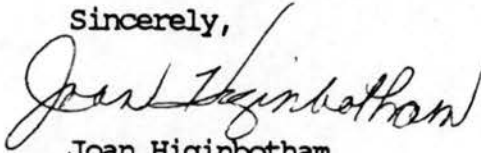
Enclosed you will find the Minority Report written by five members of the Citizens' League. The Minority Report questions the adversarial aspects between deposit legislation and recycling implied in the main report. Instead, the Minority Report acknowledges the compatible role both can play in solid waste management, and discusses how together they can enhance other landfill alternatives.

Opponents of deposit legislation are actively using the adversarial claims contained in "THE NEW WEIGH TO RECYCLE" to influence governmental units throughout Minnesota. In fact, they have prepared a resolution for counties dealing with solid waste recycling that exploits this presumed conflict between recycling and deposits. The resolution they are pushing requests that a beverage container deposit system not be established in Minnesota.

LWVMN urges you to read the enclosed Minority Report from the Citizens' League and to read the fact sheet based on League of Women Voters research. The fact sheet explains why we believe deposit legislation and recycling are compatible and can help counties implement their solid waste management plans. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota hopes you as an elected official, will join us in giving prime consideration to the welfare of our environment.

We encourage you to look over the enclosed Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Act of 1988: Initial Legislative Concepts. This proposal incorporates container deposit and a waste reduction fee (on packaging) thus providing a more holistic approach to solid waste management. We hope you can lend your support.

Sincerely,



Joan Higinbotham
President



Linda Peck
Natural Resources Director

H:P/rk

CITIZENS' LEAGUE
Recycling Committee
Minority Report

Container deposit legislation is consistent with previous Citizen League positions.

Container deposit legislation is consistent with the Recycling Committee's recommendation that waste generators be given an immediate economic incentive to recycle. This economic incentive is needed to encourage sound waste management in both the urban and rural areas of the state.

Container deposit legislation is one of several important waste management strategies: a diverse and comprehensive waste management system is consistent with the Recycling Committee's position.

Container deposit legislation is consistent with the Recycling Committee's charge to increase recycling in the metropolitan area.

- Experience in nine deposit states (California's deposit has not yet been implemented) shows that container deposit legislation will reduce the solid waste stream by 3 to 8 percent. Current recycling efforts in the metropolitan area are successfully abating only 2.7 percent of the waste stream (see page 11). Container deposit will increase this by a minimum of 3 percent, which is one-fifth of the Metropolitan Council's goal of 16 percent recycling.

Container deposit, in addition to increasing efficiency at central processing facilities, will result in reduction of up to 25 percent in ash and non-burnable residues that otherwise would need to be landfilled.

Evidence from deposit states shows that recycling programs are flourishing.

- Oregon, in addition to container deposit, mandates that all communities with a population of 4,000 or more must provide at least one curbside recycling pickup per month. In smaller communities a voluntary drop-off site must be maintained at the local waste facility. In Oregon, there are 100 curbside and 125 drop-off recycling programs, compared to Minnesota's 13 curbside and approximately 65 drop-off programs. The Oregon legislature also is considering expanding deposits to include wine coolers.

- New York State has adopted a recycling goal of 50 percent. New curbside recycling programs are being started and existing curbside recycling programs are being expanded. In July 1986, New York City began a pilot curbside recycling program in one section of the city. Plans are to expand the

program city-wide. Hamburg, NY has a curbside recycling program which is abating at least 17 percent of its residential waste stream (Met. Council).

- Connecticut and Massachusetts are drafting plans for curbside recycling programs and intermediate processing facilities which will provide processing and marketing of recyclables. Although most communities offer only drop-off services, some communities, such as W. Hartford, CT and Longmeadow, MA, have curbside recycling programs that are recycling 9 and 21 percent respectively of the residential waste stream (Met. Council, MA Commonwealth).

Consumers in deposit as well as in non-deposit states experience substantial savings when purchasing beverages in refillable glass containers. Although prices for throwaway containers in deposit states have risen an average of 2.2 cents per container, consumers who switch to refillables experience savings of from 5 to 30 percent (MPCA).

- Massachusetts reports that, considering the price increases for throwaways and the increased availability of refillables, the average decrease in consumer price will be about five percent because of a shift to refillables. Total Massachusetts consumer savings were estimated at about \$35 million per year (MPCA).

For more information on this Minority Report contact:

Debbie Meister at 612- 698-7973

December 14, 1987

COMPREHENSIVE WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING ACT OF 1988
INITIAL LEGISLATIVE CONCEPTS

The goal of this legislation is to initiate the next comprehensive step in Minnesota's efforts to minimize the amount of waste generated in the State and to reduce the amount of material landfilled in the State. To achieve this goal, existing recycling programs must be expanded and enhanced, and new programs introduced to provide a recycling opportunity to every citizen of the State.

The Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Act of 1988 is designed to generate funds and require a recycling structure that will support, improve and stabilize Minnesota's existing recycling programs and develop, initiate and expand proposed recycling programs, using county, city, private and nonprofit business initiatives.

These funds will come from two sources, a Waste Reduction Initiative Fee and the collection of unredeemed deposits from a beverage container deposit system. The Waste Reduction Initiative fee places a small levy on consumer packaging materials that are neither made of recycled materials or are capable of being recycled. Packaging materials that are a significant portion of the litter stream are also included, except for containers with a refundable deposit. Funds will be available for market development, public waste education, transportation of materials to market and development and improvement of new and existing recycling programs.

The result of this legislation is that every citizen in the State will have an opportunity to recycle a portion of their waste and those programs which provide the opportunity will be assisted by a permanent recycling funding source.

1. Opportunity to Recycle

- a. Every county will ensure that there is an opportunity to recycle to the citizens within its boundary by 1990. The opportunity to recycle means: 1) at least a place for collecting source separated residential and commercial recyclable material located either at a disposal site or another location or another service more convenient to the population being served, and 2) a public education and promotion program that gives at least annual notice to each person of the opportunity to recycle and encourages source separation of residential and commercial recyclable material.
- b. Responsibilities.
 - (1) Counties have responsibility to provide the opportunity to recycle to cities under 6,000 in population. For example, the county may use the container deposit recycling and redemption systems to meet the requirement.
 - (2) Those cities over 6,000 in population must provide an opportunity to recycle a minimum of three materials, such as

food glass, cardboard, newspaper, office paper or tin cans, in addition to the empty nonrefillable beverage containers. The city has flexibility on how to do it, for example, curbside collection, drop-off, or local redemption and recycling centers.

- c. A dealer (See definition 9.b.) must accept and pay a refund to a person, of not less than the refund value for any empty container, if the container is the same kind sold by the dealer. The dealer does not have to pay the refund if:
 - (1) The container is broken, unclean, not properly labeled or not empty.
 - (2) A local redemption and recycling center (see definition 9.d.) is authorized to refund the deposit. Reverse vending machines may be used to fulfill the dealer's responsibilities.

Any public or private entity may be licensed to establish a local redemption and recycling center in a county. A local redemption and recycling center must redeem any nonrefillable beverage containers and collect or accept at least food packaging glass and two other nonbeverage recyclable materials.

The county will license, or designate a local unit of government to license, local redemption and recycling centers. The county will exempt dealers from the requirement of accepting and paying a refund for empty beverage containers if the dealers asks to be exempt and when the county determines there is a local redemption and recycling center convenient to the population. The county or local designee is eligible for funds to establish a licensing program from the Recycling Incentives Fund under 2.

The MPCA must license local redemption and recycling centers and exempt dealers if a county is unwilling to take action under this section.

- d. Materials collected under 1.b. (deposit provision) can be used to meet the requirements in 1.a. (opportunity to recycle provision).
- e. The MPCA, in cooperation with Metropolitan Council and the Waste Management Board, must establish recycling targets/goals for paper, glass, aluminum, steel, plastic, and yard waste generated within the commercial, residential, and industrial classes of solid waste generated in the metropolitan area and the rest of the State.

The recycling targets/goals must be based on a thorough statewide mixed municipal solid waste composition study completed by the MPCA by December 31, 1989.

If the Legislature finds the targets/goals are not met by 1994, it may require one or more classes of solid waste generators within all or

part of a watershed or an area to separate identified recyclable materials and make that material available for recycling.

2. Recycling Initiatives Fund

- a. Waste Reduction Initiative Fee (as discussed in 3.a.) and Unredeemed Deposits (as discussed in 6.) are deposited in this fund.
- b. Distributors may keep 25 percent of their total amount of unredeemed deposits for two years following the effective date of this act which is reduced to 5 percent for every year following.
- c. Rest of funds used to support waste reduction, recycling, public education, and market development through disbursement to county, city, private and nonprofit businesses.
 - (1) Provide funding to Metropolitan Council and Waste Management Board to provide technical and financial (grant) assistance to license and set up new redemption centers, modify existing recyclers to add redemption systems, and to help counties meet the opportunity to recycle requirements. The money will be available to counties, cities, private, and nonprofit businesses.
 - (2) Provide funding to Metropolitan Council through Metropolitan Landfill Abatement Fund and Waste Management Board to assist any person for recycling or waste reduction projects or projects to develop markets for reusable and recyclable waste materials, related waste education (including the Waste Education Coalition), including planning, and technical assistance.
 - (3) Provide additional dollars to new Capital Assistance Program for establishing private and publicly owned intermediate processing facilities and to fund capital investment for facilities which use recyclable materials for new products.
 - (4) Provide money for public education related directly to the act.
(MPCA)

3. Waste Reduction Initiative Fee and Recycling Deposit

- a. A one cent fee is levied on packages (containers) used to hold a product sold at retail, including but not limited to: bags, barrels, baskets, bottles, boxes, cans, cartons, carrying cases, crates, cups, cylinders, drums, flexible film, glasses, jars, jugs, pails, pots, rigid foil containers, sacks, trays, tubs, tubes, tumblers, vessels, wrappers, and wraps.
 - (1) Multiple packages used to contain a single product shall be assessed a separate fee for each package.

- (2) No fee is levied if the package is made of recycled materials and is recyclable, as determined by the MPCA. Recycled packaging materials means materials that have been recovered or diverted from mixed municipal solid waste which are collected, separated or processed and returned to the economic mainstream in the form of raw materials for products. Recycled packaging materials does not include those materials and by-products generated from, and commonly reused within, an original manufacturing process.
- (3) Containers that are intended for use in a manufacturing process are exempt from the fee; as are containers used to package a prescription medicine; containers used to package food or food products, and containers which require refundable deposit of at least 10 cents per container.

Containers which are not exempt from the fee are those used to package wine or other alcoholic beverages and containers used to package fast and take-out food.

- (4) The fee is levied on the wholesaler, supplier, distributor, retailer, or other person or entity who either purchases containers used in the retail sale of products or receives containers filled with products intended for retail sale, but not the ultimate consumer of a retail product.
- b. The price of a nonrefillable beverage container sold in the State must include a refund value of 30 cents for a container with a volume of one liter or more and 10 cents for all other containers. This does not include beverages consumed on premises and those sold aboard commercial airlines, trains, or buses crossing the borders of this State. Unredeemed deposits are discussed in 6.

4. Labeling

- a. The manufacturers of packages exempt from the Waste Reduction Initiative fee in 3. are allowed to mark their packages with a State recycling emblem. These packages are manufactured from recovered materials and are also recyclable.
- b. All nonrefillable beverage containers must have the letters "MN" of a certain size, with the refund value and the words "Return for Deposit."
- c. All nonrefillable beverage containers must be marked for recognition by automated return through reverse vending machines.
- d. All plastic consumer containers effective January 1, 1989 must be labeled.
 - (1) Must be embossed (molded) with letters at least 3/16" in height, equivalent to seven letters per inch in width.

(2) Label required to be coded on the bottom of the container.

(3) Each labeled as to type of plastic based on symbols:

PS	Polystyrene
HDPE	High-density polyethelene
LDPE	Low-density polyethelene
PVC	Polyvinyl chloride
PET	Polyethylene terephthalate
PP	Polypropylene
MR	Mixed resin

5. Prohibitions

- a. No person can sell at retail, or offer for sale at retail, or give to consumers in this State:
 - (1) beverages packaged in the plastic can; or
 - (2) food packaging composed of polyvinyl chloride.
- b. A dealer within this State may not sell, offer for sale, or give to consumers beverage containers held together by nondegradable plastic rings.
- c. Redeemed containers and recycled materials under 1. may not be disposed of at a land disposal facility, except as determined by agency rule.

6. Distributor's Responsibilities

- a. Distributors required to redeem properly labeled beverage containers of the brand, size, and type s/he sold from a dealer or local redemption and recycling center.
- b. The distributor must pay the dealer or local redemption and recycling center the deposit value and a handling allowance of two cents.
- c. The distributor must report quarterly the number of beverage containers sold and the number of containers redeemed to the Department of Revenue. Overpayment and deficits will be reconciled quarterly, with unredeemed deposits being deposited in a recycling fund.

7. Reporting Requirements

- a. The MPCA, in cooperation with the Waste Management Board and Metropolitan Council, must collect baseline data to determine the effect of this act, including but not limited to, recycling rates, litter rates, beverage container data sales, and market share. Counties, cities, distributors, and other affected parties must provide the necessary and available data to the appropriate agencies.

- b. The MPCA, Waste Management Board, and Metropolitan Council must report biannually to Legislative Commission on Waste Management on the impact of this act.
- c. Initial appropriation from general fund, to be repaid from Recycling Initiatives Fund for baseline studies.

8. Effective Dates

- a. One year lead time for collection of deposits, six months lead time for collection of waste reduction initiative fee.
- b. Immediately for rulemaking, reporting, technical and financial assistance.

9. Definitions

- a. "Beverages" means beer, ale, and other malt beverages; wine coolers; carbonated mineral and soda waters (soft drinks); and spring water.
- b. "Dealer" means a person who engages in the sale of filled nonrefillable beverage containers to consumers.
- c. "Distributor" means a person who sells filled nonrefillable beverage containers to dealers in this State.
- d. "Local redemption and recycling center" means a licensed establishment, where a person may obtain the amount of the refund value for any empty nonrefillable beverage container labeled as required in section 4 and which accepts for recycling at least food packaging glass and two other nonbeverage recyclable materials.
- e. "Nonrefillable beverage container" means an individual hermetically sealed bottle, can, jar, or carton that is:
 - (1) composed of at least 50 percent glass or metal or plastic by weight;
 - (2) used to contain beverages in liquid form intended for human consumption and, when sold, contains one gallon (3.8 liters) or less of a beverage; and
 - (3) not designed or constructed to be returned, refilled, and resold after the beverage it contained has been consumed.
- f. "Opportunity to recycle" means at least:
 - (1) A place for collecting source separated residential and commercial recyclable material located either at a disposal site or another location or another service more convenient to the population being served, and

- (2) A public education and promotion program that gives at least annual notice to each person of the opportunity to recycle and encourages source separation of residential and commercial recyclable material.
- g. "Recyclable materials" means materials that are separated from mixed municipal solid waste, by the generator or during collection, for the purpose of recycling, including paper, glass, metals, automobile oil, and batteries; and in the metropolitan area, yard waste.
 - h. "Recycling" [Minn. Stat. § 115A.03, subd. 25b] could be amended to include mechanical separation under special circumstances, yet to be defined.
 - i. "Reverse vending machine" means a mechanical device that accepts one or more types of empty beverage containers and issues a cash refund or redeemable credit slip with a value not less than the container's redemption value.
 - j. "Universal product code" is an 11-digit, all-numeric code that represents a beverage container or other consumer package of a particular brand, size, type, and manufacturer by using a series of alternating bars and spaces for electronic scanning.
 - k. "Yard waste" means the garden wastes, leaves, lawn cuttings, weeds, and prunings generated at residential or commercial properties.

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CITY OF BROOKLYN CENTER
1987 CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

JAN 6 1988

Mayor Dean Nyquist
5637 Brooklyn Boulevard (office)
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429
h - 533-0774
w - 533-7272
Term of Office - 12/31/90

Gene Lhotka
6035 Lyndale Avenue North
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430
h - 561-2850
Term of Office - 12/31/90

Celia Scott
5509 Lyndale Avenue North
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430
h - 560-1516
Term of Office - 12/31/90

Bill Hawes
3612 - 53rd Avenue North
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429
h - 537-0788
Term of Office - 12/31/88

Rich Theis
3006 Thurber Road
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429
h - 561-8738
Term of Office - 12/31/88

Copy to CH

12299 Sauk River Road
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301
December 1, 1987

Solid Waste Regional Development
Attention: Annette Barr
P.O. Box 265
Slayton, Minnesota 56172

DEC 4 1987

Dear Ms. Barr:

On November 30, I talked at length with Gary Grahams about solid waste problems in Minnesota and the part that waste reduction and recycling could be playing. He recommended that I contact you and the Solid Waste Regional Development Commission. Our objective is to solicit your help in convincing the Hennepin County Commissioners to support container deposit legislation as a valuable component of waste reduction and public education.

Enclosed you will find information sent by the Minnesota League of Women Voters (MNLWV) to each County Commissioner in the state of Minnesota. It develops further our contention that container deposit and recycling can be a dynamic duo.

On December 9, 1987, at 10:00 am, the full commission of Hennepin County will be meeting with opponents of deposits. We feel a vote in support of the container deposit concept by Hennepin County is crucial for the state as a whole due to their size and influence on Minnesota legislators. We feel Hennepin County needs to consider the needs of counties in Greater Minnesota. They need to hear that you are supportive of container deposit, why you are supportive, and the concerns you have in solving your solid waste problems. They must take into account that the solid waste problem is a state problem.

We urge you to contact the Hennepin County Commissioners as soon as possible. We apologize for giving you such short notice but the Hennepin County meeting with opponents to deposit legislation was set up just prior to Thanksgiving which has made it difficult for us to respond more quickly.

Any assistance you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Linda Peck

Linda Peck
Natural Resources Director MNLWV
Citizen Member of MN. Waste Management Board
Phone: 612-685-3365

P.S. Address for Hennepin County Commissioners:
A2400 Government Center
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55487



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MINNESOTA

PHONE (612) 224-5445
106 COMO AVE. • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55103

action

file

CONTAINER DEPOSIT HEARING

TO: All Hennepin County Leagues

FROM: Carolyn Hendrixson, Legislative Coordinator - 612/925-5079
Jeanne Crampton, Natural Resources Lobbyist, 612/ 926-8760

DATE: November 24, 1987

LWVUS Position: Action to reduce the Waste Stream
(Program for Action, 1985-87, p. 16)

Notice: There will be a hearing on Wednesday, December 9th, 10 a.m. - 12 noon, before the Hennepin County Board in the Board Room, 24th floor, Hennepin County Government Center on container deposit.

Action:

1. Please send at least one member of your League to attend the meeting wearing a LWV button.
2. Have all your members call their county commissioner asking them to support the resolution for Hennepin County to support container deposit legislation at the legislature. If they have voted for it once, thank them and ask them for their continued support. If they have voted against it, tell them that studies in states where there are container deposit laws in effect, demonstrate there is a net increase in jobs.

Mark Andrew - voted yes
John Derus - voted no
Randy Johnson - voted yes
John Keefe - initiated resolution;
voted yes

Budd Robb - absent (ill)
San Sivanich - abstained
(opposes because labor told
jobs will be lost)
Jeff Spartz - voted yes

All action calls should be completed by December 8th.

Background: In response to the League mailing to county commissioners, Commissioner John Keefe brought a resolution to the Intergovernmental Committee asking Hennepin County to support container deposit at the legislature. The resolution passed the committee 4-1. When the resolution was brought to the Board, Derus and Sivanich asked that labor have a chance to speak on this issue as well as the League. The Board decided to hold a hearing on the issue at the end of the Board meeting on Wednesday, December 9th.

League Action

LWV of _____

Action taken: _____

Responses: _____



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

PHONE (612) 224-5445

555 WABASHA • ST PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

action

BEVERAGE CONTAINER DEPOSIT

For information, call

Jeanne Crampton

(612) 926-8760

87

The deposit bills have been filed! (Finally.) The numbers are: H.F. 1085, and S.F. 959. The authors are Senator John Marty, (DFL, Roseville, District 63) and Rep. Phyllis Kahn, (DFL, Minneapolis, District 58B). First hearing 3/23, 12:30PM, Environment subcommittee of Senate Env. and Nat. Resources (call 296-5003 to verify). The membership of the two Environment Committees, House and Senate, are noted below. It is particularly important that committee members hear from their constituents on this subject. If you do not have a legislator on either committee, but wish to make your ideas known to the committee as a whole, address a letter to the Comm. Chair.

It is no less important that all representatives and Senators hear from constituents. If you write a letter or card, ask for a response from your legislator as to how he or she intends to vote on container deposit. While letters from organizations are good, we hope that everyone who receives this Time For Action will also try to generate individual responses. Letters to your local paper, or interviews on radio or TV are very desirable. Included in this mailing are two sample letters---one to legislators, and one for the papers. Try to individualize them to your area if at all possible, and certainly use your own creativity if inclined! PLEASE READ THE ENCLOSED SHEET REGARDING LABOR OPPOSITION!

As filed, the bills would:

*Put a 10 cent deposit on malt and carbonated beverage and wine coolers in nonrefillable metal, glass or plastic containers. (Not on juice products.) The distributor charges the deposit on products sold to retailers, who in turn charge the deposit to the consumer.

*Provide a 2-cent handling fee to retailers, recyclers, or redemption centers for redeeming empty containers.

*Allow retailers to opt out of redeeming containers if a redemption center were located nearby.

*Allow retailers/redeemers to refuse to redeem dirty containers.

*Establish an unclaimed deposit fund in the state treasury to finance programs including labor dislocation (related to deposit legislation), solid waste education, household hazardous waste programs, recycling enhancement, market and product research for reclaimed materials, and other resource conservation priorities, including RIM (percentage.)

*Prohibit containers from being landfilled.

SENATE

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (18)

CHAIRMAN: Willet

VICE CHAIR: Dahl

OFFICE NO: 111 TELEPHONE NO: 296-1113

MEETS: T, W, F; Room 112; 1-3 p.m.

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

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Reding-D
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Schafer-R
Shaver-R
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Thiede-R
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Staff:

Ann Glumac--Committee Administrator

476 State Office Building 296-7435

Betty Gohl--Committee Secretary

479 State Office Building 296-8879

LABOR OPPOSITION:

While the container/bottling industry and retailers make up two-thirds of our opposition on a deposit law, it is labor groups, particularly the AFL/CIO Steelworkers, that pose the greatest problem. Part of this opposition stems from ancient animosities, and part from a very real fear on the part of container workers that their jobs will disappear if a container deposit law is passed. The container industry, at the least, does nothing to alleviate this fear, and at most is actively stimulating it. Those who support the passage of a beverage container law, and workers in the container industry are caught between a rock and a hard place, since both groups must depend on statistics and information provided by the industry to prove their positions on the deposit question.

There is no question that the introduction of plastic containers has hurt the glass industry, and to a lesser degree, aluminum cans. It now appears that in the near future, plastic containers and cans will be the choice of the industry, retailers, and, to a great degree, the consuming public. The decline in the use of glass beverage containers, either throwaways or refillables, is well-documented in Minnesota, as well as in every other state, whether they have a deposit law or not.

Deposit law supporters are convinced that at least a large portion of the job loss credited to passage of such laws is fictional. That is, jobs were lost, but in nearly every instance there were marketing and institutional decisions that were equally culpable. In two states, Oregon and Michigan, the original laws that were passed had a "two tiered" deposit---i.e., 5 cents on "certified" reuseable containers, and 10 cents on nonrefillables. This did lead to some dislocation in employment, as bottlers returned to refillables. Later laws made no distinction, nor would the proposed law in Minnesota. Also in Michigan, the state raised the drinking age to 21 the same year that the deposit law was initiated---which did, of course, lead to a drop in beer sales. Oregon outlawed "pop-tops" on aluminum cans when they passed their law in 1971---which led to a temporary job loss while technology was developed to manufacture cans with attached openers.

Labor concern centers around the fear that a deposit law will depress sales, leading to the need for fewer containers. Sales statistics from other deposit states would seem to indicate this fear has no basis. Deposit states sell as much beer and pop as non-deposit states, according to population.

The Container Conservation Coalition cannot say that there will be no job loss under a deposit law---but we feel the opponents are wildly inflating any possible dislocation. The proposed law does address possible job loss by providing money from the unclaimed deposit fund to aid any laid-off workers. There is no question that a deposit law generates jobs---and not all of them are of the minimum wage variety, either. Teamster Unions in deposit states have testified to the increase in transportation jobs, increased wages and new industries in their areas.

NORTHSTAR POLL, FEBRUARY 22, 1987, St Paul PIONEER-PRESS DISPATCH:

"Poll finds most favor deposits on cans, bottles"

"Nearly two in three Minnesotans would be willing to pay a refundable deposit of a nickle or a dime on beverage bottles and cans..."

CONTAINER DEPOSIT IS AN IMPORTANT TOOL FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

A beverage container deposit law will help counties and communities meet the solid waste objectives mandated by the state. State landfills are quickly filling, and many are producing hazardous run-off (leachate) which threatens the water supply. In burning plants glass and metals cause problems, either with air quality, ash composition, or physical problems such as glass slagging in grates. Benefits are:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| *Removes 6% of the material from the waste stream | *Less ash produced and landfilled |
| *Helps prevent expensive boiler damage in burners | *Improves fuel value of waste |

contains deposit file



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

106 COMO AVE. • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55103 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

September 17, 1987

Dear County Commissioner:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota (LWVMN) has a long-standing interest in waste management, specifically in assuring that alternatives to landfilling solid waste be developed throughout the state. This means that options such as waste reduction, recycling, composting and energy recovery be made viable and competitive with raw landfilling. Unfortunately, we see an uneven implementation of these options around the state: options are materializing more rapidly in the large metropolitan areas and lagging dramatically in greater Minnesota.

In May, the Citizen's League published a report entitled "THE NEW WEIGH TO RECYCLE." Much of this report we applaud; however, we feel its overall thrust is too parochial. For example, the report implies that successful recycling programs will be seriously impaired if a state container deposit bill is passed. LWVMN disagrees. We feel that a container deposit bill and recycling efforts together form a "dynamic duo" when well planned and managed. Oregon has had a deposit bill in place since 1972. Today, Oregon also has the most comprehensive recycling legislation on the books and one of the most successful programs. Enactment of a deposit bill by the Minnesota legislature can immediately enhance waste reduction efforts throughout the state and can stimulate additional alternatives to landfills for greater Minnesota.

Enclosed you will find the Minority Report written by five members of the Citizens' League. The Minority Report questions the adversarial aspects between deposit legislation and recycling implied in the main report. Instead, the Minority Report acknowledges the compatible role both can play in solid waste management, and discusses how together they can enhance other landfill alternatives.

Opponents of deposit legislation are actively using the adversarial claims contained in "THE NEW WEIGH TO RECYCLE" to influence county commissioners throughout Minnesota. In fact, they have prepared a resolution for counties dealing with solid waste recycling that exploits this presumed conflict between recycling and deposits. The resolution they are pushing requests that a beverage container deposit system not be established in Minnesota.

LWVMN urges you to read the enclosed Minority Report from the Citizens' League and to read the fact sheet based on League of Women Voters research. The fact sheet explains why we believe deposit legislation and recycling are compatible and can help counties implement their solid waste management plans. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota hopes you as an elected official, will join us in giving prime consideration to the welfare of our environment.

We encourage those counties who have already passed resolutions requesting a container deposit bill from the Legislature to continue this support. We ask those counties without a resolution supporting deposit legislation to seriously consider passing such a resolution at this time.

Sincerely,


Joan Higinbotham
President


Linda Peck
Natural Resources Director

H:P/rk
enc.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

106 COMO AVE. • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55103 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

BENEFITS FOR COUNTIES WITH A STATE CONTAINER DEPOSIT SYSTEM

Based on research compiled by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota

ENACTMENT OF CONTAINER DEPOSIT LEGISLATION:

WILL HELP COUNTIES MEET THEIR MANDATED WASTE REDUCTION GOAL

Deposit legislation will provide a 6-8 percent reduction in solid waste from the waste stream.

It is the most efficient way to remove beverage containers from the waste stream.

LESSENS COUNTY EXPENDITURES

There are no county costs incurred for start up or operation of the system.

Container deposit reduces litter and litter pick-up costs along highways and in county parks.

Total litter has decreased in all deposit states by at least 26% and up to 48%. Oregon has an 83% decrease in beverage container litter.

CREATES JOBS

Experience in deposit states clearly shows that container deposit creates jobs. No deposit state has ever rescinded deposit legislation as it expanded its recycling programs.

IS ITSELF AN EFFECTIVE PUBLIC EDUCATION TOOL IN THE AREA OF WASTE REDUCTION

Payment of a deposit at the time of purchase and reimbursement of the deposit at the time of return personalizes the economics of waste management.

BENEFITS PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Container deposit results in fewer laceration injuries at parks and reduces damage to farm vehicle tires and baler equipment.

It also reduces injury to people and animals when littered beverage containers become incorporated in bales of hay or straw.

PROMOTES RECYCLING OF PLASTICS

This legislation can serve as an incentive for the recycling of plastic containers, a growing solid waste dilemma in Minnesota.

At present only 0.5% of Minnesota plastic bottles are getting recycled. In deposit states recycling of plastic bottles is 85%.

HAS THE SUPPORT OF CONSUMERS (VOTERS)

62% of Minnesota consumers support a container deposit law. Minnesota consumers buy beverages in returnable containers at one of the highest rates in the nation.

CAN REDUCE POLLUTION AND HEALTH CONCERNS AT GARBAGE INCINERATORS

A container deposit law reduces sorting costs, air emissions and reduces maintenance costs for equipment.

It also reduces ash production and thus the amount of ash having to be landfilled and reduces material having to be landfilled when down time is experienced.

The fuel value of the garbage increases with the removal of glass bottles and metal/aluminum cans.

SERVES AS A KEY CONTRIBUTOR TO COMPREHENSIVE RECYCLING

According to Peter Spendelow, recycling coordinator for the Oregon Department of Environmental Conservation, Oregon's Deposit Law in no way discouraged other forms of recycling; in fact he describes it as "key to creating an environmental ethic in Oregon".

In outlying counties it may become the initial incentive for the establishment of recycling options.

Container deposit can expand existing recycling operations so that more of a container mix can be collected. Presently many counties can only recycle aluminum.

CITIZENS' LEAGUE
Recycling Committee
Minority Report

Container deposit legislation is consistent with previous Citizen League positions.

Container deposit legislation is consistent with the Recycling Committee's recommendation that waste generators be given an immediate economic incentive to recycle. This economic incentive is needed to encourage sound waste management in both the urban and rural areas of the state.

Container deposit legislation is one of several important waste management strategies: a diverse and comprehensive waste management system is consistent with the Recycling Committee's position.

Container deposit legislation is consistent with the Recycling Committee's charge to increase recycling in the metropolitan area.

- Experience in nine deposit states (California's deposit has not yet been implemented) shows that container deposit legislation will reduce the solid waste stream by 3 to 8 percent. Current recycling efforts in the metropolitan area are successfully abating only 2.7 percent of the waste stream (see page 11). Container deposit will increase this by a minimum of 3 percent, which is one-fifth of the Metropolitan Council's goal of 16 percent recycling.

Container deposit, in addition to increasing efficiency at central processing facilities, will result in reduction of up to 25 percent in ash and non-burnable residues that otherwise would need to be landfilled.

Evidence from deposit states shows that recycling programs are flourishing.

- Oregon, in addition to container deposit, mandates that all communities with a population of 4,000 or more must provide at least one curbside recycling pickup per month. In smaller communities a voluntary drop-off site must be maintained at the local waste facility. In Oregon, there are 100 curbside and 125 drop-off recycling programs, compared to Minnesota's 13 curbside and approximately 65 drop-off programs. The Oregon legislature also is considering expanding deposits to include wine coolers.

- New York State has adopted a recycling goal of 50 percent. New curbside recycling programs are being started and existing curbside recycling programs are being expanded. In July 1986, New York City began a pilot curbside recycling program in one section of the city. Plans are to expand the

program city-wide. Hamburg, NY has a curbside recycling program which is abating at least 17 percent of its residential waste stream (Met. Council).

- Connecticut and Massachusetts are drafting plans for curbside recycling programs and intermediate processing facilities which will provide processing and marketing of recyclables. Although most communities offer only drop-off services, some communities, such as W. Hartford, CT and Longmeadow, MA, have curbside recycling programs that are recycling 9 and 21 percent respectively of the residential waste stream (Met. Council, MA Commonwealth).

Consumers in deposit as well as in non-deposit states experience substantial savings when purchasing beverages in refillable glass containers. Although prices for throwaway containers in deposit states have risen an average of 2.2 cents per container, consumers who switch to refillables experience savings of from 5 to 30 percent (MPCA).

- Massachusetts reports that, considering the price increases for throwaways and the increased availability of refillables, the average decrease in consumer price will be about five percent because of a shift to refillables. Total Massachusetts consumer savings were estimated at about \$35 million per year (MPCA).

For more information on this Minority Report contact:

Debbie Meister at 612- 698-7973



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MINNESOTA

106 COMO AVE. • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55107
106 COMO AVE. • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55107

action

CONTAINER DEPOSIT

TO: Local League Presidents

FROM: Linda Peck, Natural Resources Director
Carolyn Hendrixson, Legislative Coordinator

DATE: September 21, 1987

Position: Action to reduce the waste stream, recycle suitable portions and insure safe treatment, storage and disposal of all wastes.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is writing all county commissioners in the state and asking them to reject a resolution prepared by opponents of container deposit legislation. The League of Women Voters' research demonstrates that container deposit legislation will provide a significant reduction in solid waste and is compatible with recycling programs.

ACTION: 1. On behalf of your League, please write to your county commissioners about container deposit. Check the enclosed list on the back of counties that have passed resolutions supporting a Deposit Bill:

- If your county is listed as a supporter, please acknowledge this and encourage them to continue their support;
- If they are not listed, please encourage your commissioners to work for, and support, passage of such a resolution.
(Scott County is the only county which passed a resolution opposing container deposit.)

2. Also ask your members to call or write individual commissioners with the message:

- Support container deposit legislation.
- Container deposit is compatible with recycling programs.

Individuals contacting commissioners should feel free to use their own personal experiences locally to justify their support.

Some areas for consideration may be found in the enclosed article that appeared in the St. Cloud Daily Times. We have also enclosed a copy of the letter mailed to county commissioners by LWVMN and the LWVMN fact sheet for background information.

Please take this action as soon as possible. Thanks for your help!

COUNTIES SUPPORTING BEVERAGE CONTAINER DEPOSIT LEGISLATION

Beltrami
Brown
Cass
Clay
Clearwater
Cook
Cottonwood
Douglas
Goodhue
Koochiching
Jackson
Lincoln
Lyon
Mahnomen
Marshall

Morrison
Murray
Norman
Ottertail
Pipestone
Polk
Pope
Pope-Douglas Jt. Solid Waste Board
Redwood
Rock
Solid Waste Jt. Powers Board (Becker,
(Stevens, Hubbard, Traverse, Wilkin,
Wadena, Todd, Ottertail, Grant)
Southwest Solid Waste Task Force
Traverse
Wilkin
Wright

COUNTIES OPPOSED

Scott

Deposit law makes sense for state

By JOHN H. PECK

St. Cloud

March 31, 1987

Minnesota is a leading state in nearly every area of environmental quality — with one big exception. We still do nothing to stop the use and abuse of throwaway beverage containers.

Nine states, including Iowa and Michigan, now require deposits on beverage containers. Container deposit legislation is popular in all these states, with a 91 percent approval rating in Oregon, for example. In no state has such legislation been repealed. It's time for Minnesota to join these other states in saying "no" to throwaways.

Are you sick of seeing roadsides littered with beer bottles and pop cans? Then deposit legislation is for you! The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency estimates that deposit legislation would reduce litter by 980 to 1,500 tons per year, which would save some \$200,000 to \$300,000 in pickup costs. Cleaner highways would make our state more attractive to tourists, and more pleasant for us natives.

Worried about broken glass in your favorite park? Deposit legislation is for you. The October 1986 issue of the American Journal of Public Health reported that "... reduction in glass-related injuries was associated with implementation of beverage container recycling legislation. ... (this) policy has apparently been beneficial to urban children by reducing their exposure to broken glass in the environment." Local park managers have told me they greatly fear throwaway beer bottles because of the potential injury and associated liability problems. They would like to see throwaways controlled in Minnesota.

Concerned about overflowing landfills? In deposit states, solid waste has been reduced by 3 percent to 8 percent, which could save Minnesotans millions of dollars annually by reducing land filling and prolonging the life span of existing landfills. Also, other methods of reducing solid waste, especially waste-to-energy incineration, would be more efficient with fewer bottles and



Coming clean

St. Cloud Area
Environmental Council

cans in the waste stream.

Because of its significant impact on solid waste reduction, deposit legislation is supported locally by the Tri-County Solid Waste Commission and statewide by the Minnesota Association of Counties, as well as the Minnesota Waste Management Board and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Like to increase employment? Deposit legislation created an estimated net gain of 400 jobs in Iowa and 4,700 jobs in Michigan. Minnesota has been losing beverage-associated jobs to out-of-state throwaway plastic containers. And the plastic takeover is continuing. Deposits give us a chance to reverse those employment losses by creating new jobs for local refillable bottlers and local recyclers.

In Minnesota, it is proposed to dedicate at least some of the money collected from unclaimed deposits to do research and development of new methods of recycling and marketing, for example, of plastic pop bottles. These efforts would create even more Minnesota jobs.

Believe in conserving energy? It takes one-twentieth as much energy to make a new aluminum can from recycled aluminum as it does from virgin ore. It is as if each aluminum can is one-third full of gasoline — that's a lot of energy we should not put in our landfills.

Want to help farmers? Let's work to keep glass out of the ditches. One farm-

er told me he lost \$1,500 worth of tires to glass in his ditches last year.

But why pick on beverage containers? Beverage containers are singled out because they are such a large contributor to the problems of litter, solid waste, lacerated feet and slashed tires. Over the years, I've picked up thousands of beverage containers from roadsides in Rockville Township, and I don't recall seeing a single mayonnaise jar or ketchup bottle.

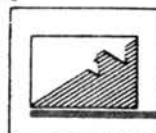
What about the effect on present recycling programs? Despite valiant (sometimes) recycling efforts in Minnesota, only about 8 percent of our beverage containers are recycled. This breaks down into a recycling level of 55 percent to 60 percent for aluminum cans, 6 percent for glass bottles and only 0.5 percent for plastic bottles. And plastic, the least recycled, is increasing its share of the market. By contrast, in deposit states the rates are 88 percent to 97 percent for aluminum, 91 percent to 96 percent for glass and 85 percent for plastic. Because of these figures, many recycling firms actively support deposit legislation.

Won't stores be inconvenienced? Perhaps, but retailers or other collectors of returned containers will keep a handling fee of 2 cents per container. Reverse vending machines are used by many stores in deposit states. People who bring back containers for refunds usually turn around and spend their refund money in the same store. As a Maine retailer noted, "The first principle of marketing is to get people into the place of business. The bottle bill does that."

The facts support deposit legislation. Common sense supports deposit legislation. The governor supports deposit legislation. Now it's up to our legislators.

Will 1987 be the year Minnesota finally says "no" to throwaways?

John Peck, a professor of environmental biology at St. Cloud State University, reports that he has been picking up roadside litter ever since he became a Boy Scout in 1953.



St. Cloud Daily Times

(USPS 475800)

Official newspaper of Stearns County and St. Cloud

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CD-9/21/87

Please return to LWVMN, 106 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103

League of Women Voters of _____

Action taken _____

Date: _____

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF RECYCLING ---February, 1987

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS PARK, MINNESOTA

NATURAL RESOURCES: Study the expandability of recycling of solid waste and the practicality of plastic recycling

Study Committee

Peg Gingerich
Lydia Peterson
Lois Cheney
B.J. Amick
Allie Skoro

SOLID WASTE

LWVUS Position: Action to reduce the waste stream, recycle suitable portions; and ensure the safe treatment, storage and disposal of all wastes.

LWVMN Position: Support of measures to reduce generation of solid waste.

Details:

Support of state government's taking measures to reduce the generation of municipal solid waste through research and development of alternatives to sanitary landfills.

Support of measures to discourage the use of non-returnable beverage containers.

Support of flexibility in the establishment and enforcement of standards in solid waste management to allow the state to adopt more stringent standards than federal standards.

OVERALL PICTURE

Recycling of wastes is an idea whose time has come. As costs for the disposal of garbage skyrocket and appropriate acreage for sanitary landfills becomes scarcer, recycling is now recognized as a practical way to cut solid wastes and their related costs. It is no longer merely an energy-and-

resource-saving idea that is the darling of the environmentalists.

The 1985 legislature, through amendments to the 1980 Waste Management Act, set January 1, 1990 as the date after which no unprocessed mixed municipal solid waste can be deposited in land fills in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. This deadline has served to speed up consideration of recycling programs. The Metropolitan Council serves as coordinator for area recycling programs and for the development of markets and techniques. It has some grant money for this purpose.

Most existing recycling programs use either drop-off sites or curbside pick-up. Items recycled range from newspapers and aluminum cans to glass, motor oils, plastics, yard waste, tires and high grade office paper. Programs exist in smaller towns such as Spring Valley, Minnesota, and in cities as large as St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Fluctuating prices and unstable markets for the material removed from the waste stream remain a problem and few recycling programs are self-supporting. Subsidizing costs of picking up recyclables is now a practical option, given the need to reduce the waste stream and the cost of garbage disposal.

Government officials have also become aware of the dangers to aquifers caused by inappropriate materials deposited in sanitary land fills. What we put in the ground today can pollute our grandchildren's drinking water 50 or 100 years from now.

There is a growing realization that the rush to incinerators as an alternative to landfills brings with it a threat of air pollution, in spite of modern scrubbing techniques and vigilance in the control of burn temperatures.

Fear that dioxins may spew into the air from the incinerator planned for downtown Minneapolis has motivated citizen's groups to demonstrate against the incinerator, and particularly against its location near Butler Square. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has approved the incinerator. Subsequent action by the Minneapolis City Council to issue a land use permit is expected. Completion of the plant is expected by 1990.

The incinerator is designed to handle mixed garbage and waste from Hennepin county and any parts of the contiguous counties serviced by the main hauling routes. The plant will minimize pollutants (such as dioxin) in the air by using the latest in combustion techniques, with efficient oxygen input and temperature controls so that even mixed loads will incinerate under optimum total-burn conditions.

A "dry-scrubber" and a multi-chambered dust filter are expected to remove most of the particulates from the air. The ash residue from the burn could be treated so that properly distributed it might help eliminate the leaching of toxic materials into the ground water at landfills.

Permits for a solid waste processing plant at Elk River, Minnesota, have been issued by the MPCA. Northern States Power will build a plant to process 1000 tons of garbage and solid waste into pellets daily. Benton, Anoka, Sherburne, Stearns and part of Hennepin county will supply the raw product. United Power Company will build a plant near-by to burn the pellets and generate electricity--which it will sell back to NSP.

THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

The Metropolitan Council, authorized by the legislature, has prepared a long range plan for managing the area's solid waste. The council has developed time schedules for waste reduction and source separation, and has looked at the feasibility of centralized systems for handling recovered materials. In the process it has looked at local markets for waste paper, glass, ferrous metals, aluminum, plastics, textiles, tires, motor oil and yard waste. The market for recyclable material remains unstable, with sometimes wildly fluctuating prices.

According to the Metro Council, many recycling programs are in trouble due to low market prices and high costs of processing and transporting to markets. Regional intermediate processing plants may be one way to increase the quantity and quality of recyclable materials and also to allow the pooling of these materials for cooperative transportation and marketing.

WASTE PAPER

There is much uncertainty in the paper market. Demand is expected to grow at a slower rate than it has in the past. Waldorf Corporation is the region's major paper mill. It takes only about 21 percent of the newsprint collected annually.

There are at least 45 different grades of wastepaper. They fall into five general categories: pulp substitutes, high grades, corrugated containers, newspapers and mix.

PULP SUBSTITUTES are high-quality pre-use trimmings, usually recovered from manufacturers of envelopes and other similar

items. Pulp substitutes compete well with virgin pulp and are effected when virgin paper prices fall. Prices dropped about 50% in 1985.

HIGH GRADE typically is recovered from commercial sources (ledgers, computers, office use). Markets are quite stable, although the price dropped 13% from July 1984 to July, 1985.

CORREGATED CONTAINERS originate primarily from commercial/industrial sources. The price dropped about 58% in 1985.

NEWSPRINT uses continue to grow. Animal bedding, for example, is a good use for recycled newspapers. Until recently there was only one manufacturer of this kind of animal bedding in Minnesota--in Rochester. By the end of 1986 one more had opened in the Twin Cities area, with another one expected to open soon. There is still a lack of awareness of this material and its advantages over traditional bedding.

MIX consists of mixed waste paper ranging from high grade to magazines. Markets are limited to construction grades of finished paper. The market is slow. In July of 1985 mix was given away to avoid land fill costs.

NEWS-TO-NEWS mills recycle newspapers into newsprint. Only 10 news-to-news mills exist in the United States. None are in the five-state region, although at least one is in Chicago.

Cellulose insulation is manufactured from newspapers. Demand peaked during the energy crisis of 1977-78 and has slowed since.

ALUMINUM SCRAP AND USED BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

There are only two markets for this material in the metro area. The primary end markets are in Indiana, Tennessee, Michigan, Ohio, and Missouri. There is a network of collectors and brokers who often end up shipping used beverage container material to Japan, West Germany, Brazil or Argentina. If prices for aluminum cans go too low, this network could collapse.

FERROUS METALS

The Twin Cities metro area generates more ferrous scrap than it can use. Principle markets are in Chicago, Indiana, and Nebraska via rail; minimarkets along the Mississippi River via barge; and foreign markets in Japan, Korea, Mexico and Spain through the port at New Orleans. Transportation costs

effect this market immensely. The Twin Cities have a comparative advantage because of their accessibility to water routes. Drop-offs can be made all along the 2000 mile route of the river.

Only a very small amount of the ferrous metals recycled come from household collection.

TEXTILES

Textile recycling is an international industry. There are three distinct markets: reused clothes, rags and recycled fibers. Two major users of recycled textiles are Ragstock Company and Brotex Inc. Ragstock operates a chain of second-hand clothing stores, sells clothes to the foreign market and manufactures wiping cloths. Brotex sells wiping cloths and produces felt for the automobile industry.

About 85 percent of textiles is recycled. Non-profit organizations such as Salvation Army play a big role in textile recovery. The demand is stable but the price fluctuates and went from eight cents a pound a few years ago to 1 to 2 cents in February of 1986.

TIRES

In 1984 the legislature banned tires from landfills effective July 1, 1985. This ban is the result of work by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and has resulted in piles of tires accumulating into huge mountains while agencies try to find a proper disposal of them. As of February, 1986, the only practical end market for Twin Cities tires was in Tomahawk, Wisconsin, where an Owens-Illinois paper plant uses chipped rubber as a fuel. Shredded tires from the Anoka county stockpile go to this plant. Transportation is cost-effective because the transporter back-hauls paper products from Tomahawk to the Twin Cities.

Research still continues on a process to use shredded tires in resurfacing roadways.

WASTE MOTOR OIL

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to designate used motor oil a hazardous waste. This will require a change in the way used motor oil is disposed of. Last October Hennepin County sponsored a household hazardous waste drop-off site. Motor oil was one of the products collected. The project was a success and is expected to be repeated in the spring.

The current collection system--dropping used oil off at designated depots--brings in about 10 million gallons of motor oil a year, mostly from large commercial/industrial companies. An estimated six million other gallons go uncollected and are disposed of outside the recycling system. Most of that oil comes from private households and there is concern that much of it is disposed of in landfills or by simply pouring it into the ground in the back yard. Either method endangers groundwater.

There are no major plants in the five-state area that re-refine oil. The closest are in Illinois and Indiana. Markets for the re-refined product include an acid treatment plant in the Twin Cities area, and hot mix asphalt plants and small furnaces which use the oil as fuel.

YARD WASTE

There are a number of composting programs in the area. County or local officials administer drop-off sites. Two programs offer home pick-up and emphasize source separation. Compost is generally distributed free of charge. There are possibilities for commercial markets but they have not been developed. Possible uses are nurseries, landscapers, golf courses, parks and highway construction. Fillmore County plans to compost yard waste for distribution to farmers in the county.

Minnesota Governor's Executive Order on Compost requires all state agencies to give preference to compost over other soil additives when compost is of equal price and performance. The University of Minnesota is conducting research on composting and co-composting.

PLASTICS

The problems to be solved in order to recycle plastics effectively are enormous. There are well over 20,000 kinds of plastics in existence and the number continues to grow. Few of the different kinds of plastics can be combined to be recycled into new products. Also, used plastics are difficult to sterilize. Some processes use caustics to clean the retrieved plastic. Extra washing is required to get rid of the residue from the caustic. Given the present state of the art, recycling plastics in the Twin Cities area is not a very viable option. The northeast corridor, more densely developed and industrialized, is believed to provide a better chance for success.

There are some recycling operations dotted around the country. Spring Valley, Minnesota, for example, sends its milk bottles and some soap containers to a plant in Chicago.

The Minnesota Soft Drink industry maintains two drop-off sites in the Twin Cities area (one west of Hoigaards) for 2-liter plastic soft drink containers, as well as glass bottles and cans. Presently the plastic is sold for fuel. An estimated 20% of all plastic soft drink bottles are recycled annually nationwide.

The Plastics Recycling Institute at Rutgers University in New Jersey, an organization which combines university and industry resources, is doing research on the reuse of plastics and has opened a pilot plant to try out new technologies and develop new markets.

But on the whole the market is spotty, unorganized, and not cost-effective. Most of the existing recycling plants are experimental or unsophisticated and labor-intensive.

There are efforts to develop new kinds of modern plastics that will self-destruct. The U. S. Department of Agricultural Research in Peoria, Illinois, is experimenting with mixing new plastic with up to 50 percent starch to produce a mulch for farmers that will disintegrate in the field. Soil microbes eat the starch first, then the plastic crumbs. Timing of the decomposition could be controlled by the amount of starch used in the product.

Already on the market is a starch-based plastic used for hospital laundry bags. The bags are filled, sealed, and put directly into the washing machines where they disintegrate.

Eco Plastics, Ltd., Ontario, Canada, makes a plastic film containing a chemical that reacts with the ultra-violet in sunlight. The company has sold a million pounds of self-destructing shopping bags to Italy.

TYPES OF PLASTICS

High-density Polyethylene (HDPE) provides the necessary high resistance to chemicals necessary for packaging milk, detergents, shampoos, pharmaceutical products, juices, bottled water, anti-freeze and many other household and industrial products.

Low-density Polyethylene (LDPE) is light weight, tough and squeezable. It is used in packaging toiletries and cosmetics.

Polypropylene (PP) is highly heat resistant and is used for foods that must be filled while hot, like syrup.

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) has clarity, chemical resistance and the ability to provide the oxygen barrier needed to package

floor polishes, shampoos, edible oils, mouthwashes and liquor.

Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) resists oxygen, water vapor, and carbon dioxide and is used for boil-in-the-bag foods, meat, cosmetics and carbonated soft drinks.

Polystyrene (PS) has excellent clarity and rigidity. It is used to package tablets, salves, ointments and other items not sensitive to oxygen and moisture.

Of these general categories, PET (soft drinks containers) and HDPE (milk bottles, etc.) provide the best opportunity for developing recycling markets which do not use plastic containers merely for fuel.

ST. LOUIS PARK PROGRAM

The St. Louis Park recycling program is one that other cities study as they prepare to launch their own programs. With the exception of a period of several months early in 1986, curbside pick-up recycling appears to have worked well.

* Wally Wysopal, administrative assistant in the St. Louis Park Public Works department, describes the city's problems with the program as primarily with the collector company, its management and the rising cost of liability insurance. U. S. Recyco, the original contractor, went out of business at the end of 1985. Not only was liability insurance high, but also the operation was too labor-intensive, requiring four or five persons on a small truck. A lot of sorting for metal rings on bottles was done by hand. The system also required a labor-intensive transfer to a larger truck for hauling to the recycler.

The city had no collection in January, 1986. For the next four months an emergency contractor collected while the city advertised for bids. At the end of May the city contracted with Super Cycle. This company designed its own equipment. It uses a system that is more efficient and requires less man hours. The truck bins are larger and can be transferred by forklift. Bottles are crushed and metal rings removed magnetically. This system requires a substantial investment in start-up fees but is less expensive to run. The city paid \$7,500 per month to the previous contractor. The present company charges \$5,500 per month (About \$35 per ton).

Mr. Wysopal considers that there are three important points about recycling:

1. Collection must be effective and efficient. More than two persons on a truck is not cost effective.

2. Material must be separated properly, time from pick-up to delivery kept to a minimum.

3. There must be worthwhile contracts and effective arrangements with reclaimers.

There has been dependable collection for six months now, (A few glitches crept in before the workers were completely trained.) On February 2, 1987 the City Council approved a 3-month pilot program which will extend recycling pick-up to 10 multi-family dwellings, a total of 100 units. The pilot program is intended to discover, among other things, the amount of waste generated and the cost of pick-up based on \$35 per ton. Pick-up for multi-family and commercial buildings has to be almost custom designed to be effective, due to the variety of building styles in the city. There are few markets for plastics but Wysopal is keeping in touch with the situation and hopes that a year will bring changes in the market picture.

On February 2nd the city staff also presented to the council a proposal for composting, using county facilities but with St. Louis Park providing curbside pick-up of plastic bags holding yard waste and leaves. The present pick-up company, Super Cycle, is developing machinery to be stationed at the composting site which will remove the plastic bags from the grass clippings and leaves to be composted. Staff will return to the council on February 17th with a more detailed plan.

Composting returns to the soil whatever residual chemicals remained on the surface to be picked up with grass clippings. Exactly whether this presents future danger to ground water is not known at the present time.

Advice from Wally Wysopal: GET THE BOTTLE DEPOSIT BILL PASSED! Jeanne Crampton, Natural Resource chair for the LWVMN, reports she is finding some renewed interest in the bottle bill among state officials. It is estimated that a bottle deposit law could remove 90% of the beverage containers from the waste stream and could reduce accidents from broken glass in parks by 60-75%. As of mid-January Governor Rudy Perpich was considering proposing beverage-container deposit legislation--estimated by some persons as being able to generate from \$10 million to \$60 million from unreturned bottles--to help fund payment to farmers for taking marginal land out of production, or to raise money for other state services. The beverage industry and the AFL-CIO have opposed container-deposit legislation in the past and are expected to continue to do so.

Prophecy from Wally Wysopal: Given the necessity of reducing the waste stream by 1990, MANDATORY RECYCLING IS INEVITABLE!

PACKAGING AND THE MPCA

In 1973, the Minnesota Legislature passed The Recycling of Solid Waste Act. That Act directed the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to review new or changed packages or containers sold at retail to determine whether the packaging would constitute a solid waste disposal problem or be inconsistent with the environmental policies of the state.

The Act proved to be impractical--hard to enforce and expensive. Although the state Supreme court upheld the legality of the statute, the court judged the regulations adopted by the MPCA to be guidelines without the force of law. The MPCA retains its authority but relies on education and voluntary compliance to keep packaging reasonable. Several members of the MPCA Advisory Committee have expressed the belief that the act was passed merely to sidetrack bottle deposit legislation.

SUMMARY

The need to reduce the size of the waste stream and the scarcity of space for landfills have turned recycling and source separation into viable options. Markets for reusable materials remain unstable and prices fluctuate, requiring subsidies to fund recycling programs. The Metro Council is coordinating programs and assisting research on markets and material uses.

The St. Louis Park city council has approved a pilot program to expand recycling to 10 multi-family dwellings (100 units) and has asked for a detailed program for composting, using Hennepin County facilities and curbside pick-up of leaves and yard waste in plastic bags. Serious consideration concerning expanding the recycling program to other items (motor oil, tires, batteries, etc.) will wait until expansion of the present program is completed.

There is now practically no market locally for recycled plastics. Markets for other materials vary considerably. The MPCA is considering naming motor oil a hazardous waste, making its disposal more complicated.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

July 31, 1986

Patrick Hirigoyen
Information Officer
Minnesota Waste Management Board
123 Thorson Community Center
7323 - 58th Avenue No.
Crystal, MN 55428

Dear Pat,

Since I'm spending the summer in Michigan (where there aren't any beverage containers on the roads, beaches or in landfills because of an effective container deposit law), I'm a bit tardy with my comments on the draft of the Waste Education Roundtable Report.

Generally, it is a very good report, and does a great job of pinpointing some of the past and present gaps in waste education in Minnesota. Specifically, here are our comments regarding areas that relate to the League of Women Voters' positions on waste:

The Communications Director on the League Board, Mary Santi, remarked to me in a note, after reading the draft, that, "...it seems they give short shrift to organizations like us". This leads into a comment I wanted to make. It's not so much that I feel we and other similar groups were slighted by the report (Appendix A, after all, gave everyone a chance to toot their own horn) as by what I see as a problem inherent in all volunteer organizations - funding. So much of what any of us do is based on money - or lack of it. In the past few years certain program areas have tended more and more to be the "tail that wags the dog". The public decides the importance or crisis status of certain topics, and that's where the money goes. In many ways I am amazed that organizations do as well as they do, given the strictures under which they operate. I would like to suggest that if more grants were available to volunteer organizations in the waste area, and particularly grants that might fund long-range, on-going education programs, the State might realize a lot of "bang for the buck". We all know how to stretch those pennies, and most of us have very creative volunteers!

On page 36 of the report, the fourth "Conclusion" indicates that Local Government officials support the need for statewide action, such as a container deposit law or litter tax. We would like to suggest that under "Recommendations" a way be found to get specific information to those officials about the pros and cons of such laws, particularly results in states that have adopted them.

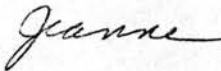
July 31, 1986

We applaud the report's recommendation on page 48 that a study be commissioned by the legislature to look at the pros and cons of mandatory laws and fee incentives for reducing solid and hazardous wastes. The League had already decided to pursue this course in the 1987 legislature, rather than continue its push for adoption of a container deposit law. There are too many myths being promulgated by opponents to such a law to allow its passage without an objective study that would present an even-handed portrayal of pros and cons, and the effect of such laws in states where they have been implemented. We enthusiastically suggest that the recommendation be a part of the Waste Management Board's 1987 legislative package and promise we will be at the legislature to promote its passage.

Under "Options for Implementing an Improved Waste Education System in Minnesota" (p. 51) are listed two suggestions for the creation of a coordinating structure, one an independent body, the other to function under an existing agency. The LWV would prefer, generally, to see such a structure developed under an existing agency rather than the creation of a totally new body. The Roundtable's suggested structure, activities, development and membership categories for such a coordinating structure seem valid and logical.

I shall look forward to the final publication of the report. Congratulations to the Roundtable group on a job well done.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Crampton
Natural Resources Director

JC/rk

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
TRANSPORTATION



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515
December 2, 1985

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4755

462 FEDERAL COURTS BUILDING
110 SOUTH 4TH STREET
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401
(612) 349-5110

Subs file
Superfund file
Crampton
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DEC 30 1985

Ms. Joan Higinbotham
Ms. Jeanne Crampton
League of Women Voters of MN
555 Wabasha
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Ms. Higinbotham and Ms. Crampton:

Thank you for contacting me regarding reauthorization of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 -- the Superfund law.

I am very concerned about the problem of leaking hazardous waste dumps and I support a more comprehensive and accelerated cleanup program. There is general agreement throughout the nation that the Superfund is the appropriate vehicle for abating toxic waste pollution in this country, and that the program should be reauthorized and strengthened. However, disagreement persists on several key issues including the funding level, funding mechanisms, and cleanup procedures. Additional points to be resolved are proposed changes in the Superfund liability system and protection of persons exposed to toxic materials.

The Senate has passed a Superfund reauthorization bill (S. 51) providing \$7.5 billion over five years. The Reagan Administration supports a \$5.3 billion reauthorization level. The House is working on H.R. 2817, a bill which provides a \$10 billion reauthorization. So far this proposal has been examined by four House committees and it is now awaiting consideration by the full House.

I strongly support a \$10 billion reauthorization level; however, I am concerned about how this is to be financed. The Senate bill contains a broad based tax on manufacturers and raw materials producers. I favor a financing mechanism which taxes those industries primarily responsible for hazardous wastes and which involves a minimal amount of general tax revenues. H.R. 2817 should come to the House floor before the end of the year. At that point we will have an opportunity to compare the different committee recommendations and vote on a new Superfund program.

I appreciate your interest in this important environmental law.

Sincerely,

Martin O. Sabo
Martin O. Sabo
Member of Congress

MOS/ebt



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

TESTIMONY TO THE
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON WASTE MANAGEMENT
NOVEMBER 19, 1985
BY JEANNE CRAMPTON,
NATURAL RESOURCES CHAIR
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

Minnesota needs a site for the disposal of treated hazardous wastes. Whether it is needed next year, or in five years, or ten, it will still be needed.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota "supports action to reduce the waste stream, recycle suitable portions, and ensure the safe treatment, storage and disposal of all wastes". Our position further states, "Land disposal of untreated hazardous wastes should be considered only as a management option of the last resort". Since the passage of the Minnesota Waste Management Act, we have supported the Waste Management Board in their search for a proper method of treatment and disposal of Minnesota's hazardous waste - including the selection of a site for treatment and/or disposal.

While we did not take a position on the amendment to the Act (in 1984) that called for a two-year moratorium on the siting process, we feel the Board and its staff has put the time to good use in researching state-of-the-art treatment and disposal methods, and has also reached a more definitive estimate of the amount and type of waste with which Minnesota will have to cope.

While our position on waste is not extensive enough to allow us to comment on all the details contained in the three options indicated in the staff report, there is no question that we have in the past and will continue to support the final selection of at least one environmentally sound site for the treatment and stabilization of waste, and the disposal of any residue, after a variety of treatment procedures. We feel the question of whether to proceed immediately with the development of a site will depend on a number of factors - some of which Minnesota will have no control over. The reasons for designating a site, for use either now or in the future are immutable.

Minnesota has always been a leader in developing environmental controls, and we see no reason why that leadership cannot be used to show the rest of the country that hazardous waste can be disposed of in an acceptable manner. As

consumers, we recognize that such disposal will have to be paid for by us, either in the cost of the products which produce such waste, or as direct taxes or service fees. The cost will be high, but it must either be borne, or we must agree to discontinue the use of certain products. Since the decision has already been made that Minnesota will not dispose of any untreated waste, we now have to decide what technologies are available and feasible for our use, including incineration, neutralization, recycling and stabilization. This means that earlier concerns about drums of festering liquid seeping into the ground and contaminating water are a thing of the past. It seems probable that much of our waste, although needing a disposal site, will no longer be considered "hazardous".

We can no longer brush aside the ethical considerations of disposing of our waste in locations outside of our state borders, small though the amount may be. Many of the places to which we are sending our waste are contaminating ground water and soil. What right do we have to contribute to the toxic contamination of another state? More to the point - how long will the citizens of those states allow us to continue such practices? As pointed out in the staff report, waste disposal outside of Minnesota is presently possible, and may be for the near future, but there is no question that such a situation will not last forever. We have to be prepared for the day when our present disposal sources say, "No more".

During the last session of the Legislature, we saw the weakening of the State Superfund Law, mainly in response to fears of waste generators and handlers that liability insurance would no longer be obtainable. While those fears may have been based on an illogical perception in regard to the Law, it is a fact that liability insurance is presently difficult to obtain worldwide, for a number of situations having nothing to do with waste disposal. If Minnesota can develop an acceptable procedure for the treatment of hazardous waste, and its benign disposal, we should be able to obtain liability insurance for our generators, in light of long-term reduced risks of contamination.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota believes that technology has advanced to a point where it will be possible to develop a waste facility that will not contaminate the water and soil in our state. The Legislature should direct the Waste Management Board to designate an environmentally-sound site for possible use, while at the same time pursuing the development of an incentive package that might induce a community to consider having such a facility in their area.

Has anyone talked to Lake Wobegon?



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

TESTIMONY TO THE
WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD
OCTOBER 31, 1985
BY JEANNE CRAMPTON,
NATURAL RESOURCES CHAIR
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

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consumers, we recognize that such disposal will have to be paid for by us, either in the cost of the products which produce such waste, or as direct taxes or service fees. The cost will be high, but it must either be borne, or we must agree to discontinue the use of certain products. Since the decision has already been made that Minnesota will not dispose of any untreated waste, we now have to decide what technologies are available and feasible for our use, including incineration, neutralization, recycling and stabilization. This means that earlier concerns about drums of festering liquid seeping into the ground and contaminating water are a thing of the past. It seems probable that much of our waste, although needing a disposal site, will no longer be considered "hazardous".

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Has anyone talked to Lake Wobegon?



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

October 29, 1985

The Honorable Vin Weber
United States House of Representatives
318 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Weber:

Strong reauthorization of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) or "Superfund" is very important to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. We are, understandably, disturbed by the passage out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee of HR 2817, a bill that is substantially weaker than the League-endorsed bill that passed the House last year. We prefer the Public Works Committee version of HR 2817, which was passed out on October 10th.

The major points we feel need to be in any reauthorization of Superfund are: mandatory cleanup schedules, mandatory cleanup standards based on existing environmental laws, requirements for permanent treatment of wastes where feasible and achievable, and guarantees of citizens' right-to-sue to stop toxic releases that endanger their health. The House Energy and Commerce Committee version of HR 2817 does not meet these goals; the Public Works Committee version does, and should not be weakened.

Attached is a sheet amplifying the League's goals for Superfund, and the reasons we feel a strong bill is mandatory. Minnesota today is feeling the effects of careless handling of hazardous waste and toxic materials in the past. Please work for a strong Superfund, to repair past mistakes and prevent or alleviate new ones!

Sincerely,

Joan Higinbotham
President

Jeanne Crampton
Natural Resources Director

H:C/rk



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

HOW THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WOULD STRENGTHEN SUPERFUND

To answer the challenge presented by the hazardous waste crisis, the League of Women Voters has urged the Congress since 1984 to pass a new authorization of the fund, including:

- * At least \$10 billion in funding over a five-year period. If EPA continues its current rate of accelerating cleanups, approximately \$10 billion would be spent over five years.
- * A mandatory schedule for actual cleanup starts. EPA's record of beginning work at only 330 sites over five years is unacceptable. EPA has claimed to complete work at only six sites, one of which has begun to leak toxic wastes again.
- * Uniform health-based cleanup standards. The League urged Congress to insure that sites were cleaned up to give full protection to public health and at least meet standards in other environmental laws.
- * Retention of "strict, joint and several" liability for polluters. This tough standard ensures that the polluter pays for cleanup and gives EPA a powerful tool in negotiating for cleanups.
- * Community Right-to-Know. The League believes Congress should pass a national community right-to-know law that ensures that citizens can gain information about the types of toxic substances stored in their communities and any releases into their communities. This law should also encourage emergency planning and response and should supplement, but not replace, state right-to-know laws.
- * Requirement of Permanent Treatment. EPA should be required to permanently treat waste by destroying or neutralizing it whenever it is feasible and achievable. Wastes should not simply be contained or shifted to other leaky sites if alternatives are available.
- * Federal Cause of Action. A provision that would give citizens the right to sue in federal court for damages if they were harmed by toxic wastes.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

April 9, 1985

Mr. C. Patrick Schulke, President
Red Owl
P.O. Box 329
Minneapolis, MN. 55440

Dear Mr. Schulke:

I was very disturbed to discover several weeks ago that my local Red Owl Country Store (Excelsior Blvd. and Highway 100) was phasing out half-gallon cartons of milk in favor of milk in semi-rigid plastic throwaway jugs. Needless to say, I will not be purchasing milk in that variety of container.

The Metropolitan Council just recently issued proposals on solid waste for our seven-county area, one of which was that after 1990 metro landfills would no longer accept untreated or recyclable solid waste. While plastic milk jugs are technically recyclable, there is at present no process in our area for accomplishing that. Those recyclers who accept plastic milk jugs (and most do not) are simply landfilling them, to the best of our knowledge. We are not yet able to adequately burn the major share of our solid waste residue, and there is some question about the safety of burning large amounts of plastic, so that means that containers such as those that are appearing on your shelves will be a major contributor to the accelerated filling of our present landfills. This is unconscionable, knowing what we do today about the hazardous leachate from many of our existing landfills, and the contamination of ground water.

Red Owl has always been a good corporate neighbor in our communities, and we hope that they will reconsider the recent change in milk packaging. If the change was instituted by your supplier, we suggest that you notify them you will be unable to accept milk in such detrimental packaging. I find that a number of other stores are still carrying milk in cartons, and SuperAmerica, of course, carries milk in refillable half-gallon jugs.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Crampton
Natural Resources Co-Chair



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

Testimony presented to the
Environment and Natural Resources Committee,
House of Representatives
by Jeanne Crampton, Natural Resources Chair
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
February 7, 1985

I am Jeanne Crampton, Natural Resources Director for the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. Thank you very much for providing our organization the opportunity to appear before you to state our concerns regarding the environment in Minnesota.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is a grassroots nonpartisan organization that includes sixty-five local Leagues throughout the state, and is itself one of fifty state Leagues, with national headquarters in Washington, D.C. Our members do not take action in any area until they have studied the issue and reached general agreement. Our overall natural resources position, which states, "Promote the wise management of resources in the public interest and an environment beneficial to life," includes positions on water resources, air quality, solid and hazardous waste, land use, energy and transportation.

Following is a list of environmental issues we see as being important in the 1985 Legislative session:

The Superfund Law. We supported the adoption of a strong Superfund law and are disturbed by the present attempts to reduce its effectiveness. We are awaiting the results of the Task Force that the Governor asked to examine the law, for possible compromise, to decide what our position on the issue will be. If the recommendations seem fair, and a legitimate compromise can be reached, we will probably not oppose such changes. We do feel that some method of compensation for possible victims is necessary, whether under common law, or by the mechanism of a fund or similar vehicle.

Local Leagues throughout Minnesota have indicated that solid waste problems are high on their priority list. As many of you know, the League has supported the adoption of a beverage container deposit law for many years, and actively pursued this issue during the 1984 Legislative session. Because industry and labor forces have always combined to defeat this issue, we do not intend to

pursue it this year, although we would like to point out that Brockway Glass, a major opponent, has now closed their plant. We predicted such a trend last year when we pointed out that plastic containers have taken over 20 percent of the container market in five years, and were a far greater threat to glass companies than a deposit law ever would be. Which leads me directly to a bill filed last week by Senator Eric Petty, and which the League intends to support. SF 316 would prohibit the retail sale of any plastic beverage container under the size of one liter in the State of Minnesota. Coca Cola Company announced last October that they intended to begin test marketing a 12-ounce, can-shaped, plastic container within three or four months in the U.S. and Canada. We still feel that placing a deposit on all beer and pop containers is the proper method of attack, rather than prohibition, but since the Legislature has been unwilling to consider this method, we are going to support the Petty bill. At the moment there are no plans, no particular markets, and no framework for recycling plastic containers. Those containers, once they are introduced, are going to end up in landfills throughout the state, and as litter on roads, beaches and highways. As they say, "You ain't seen nothin' yet."

We also believe recycling of all materials must be implemented as rapidly as possible. We are quite prepared to support the Metropolitan Council's call for mandatory source separation in the Metro area, should that suggestion in their draft Solid Waste Guide become a reality. We will support practically any form of recycling, voluntary or mandatory, that this Legislature might care to consider. Both New Jersey and Oregon have developed different but effective approaches to statewide recycling. The bottom line is that the cost is going to be borne by the citizen/consumer, no matter what method is selected. Source separation and curbside pickup will be paid for by taxes and/or service fees. A deposit on containers functions within a closed loop of industry, retailer and consumer, and the consumer may or may not pay a few cents extra for the product. A deposit law places the responsibility for the waste product with the industry that generated it, instead of passing the buck on to local and regional governments. Since the cry in Minnesota is "No more landfills," we are forced to consider all methods of waste reduction: less generation of waste, recycling and waste reduction by incineration, with energy byproducts. Before we begin burning everything in sight, we need to establish a workable plan for recycling and composting. Since reliable markets are the catch-22 in the recycling process, we need to look at not only existing markets, but the development of useable products from recycled material. The northern part

of Minnesota could use a few new industries - why not something that could use recycled waste as a raw material?

During the past year and a half, Leagues throughout Minnesota have been studying the problems of water management and diversion. Our positions on water quality are extensive, and were developed a number of years ago. At the end of February, our Water Study Committee will meet and develop a new consensus from statewide League reports. As study guides for our membership, our Water Committee wrote and published two new publications, Who Owns Minnesota Water? and Minnesota's Liquid Asset: Water Use and Policy Options, which discuss the problems of water allocation and diversion, and suggest different methods of solving such issues. Legislators have received a copy of each publication. In mid-March the League will be announcing their choice of method (or choices) for water management and conservation in Minnesota, and will be commenting on proposed water legislation thereafter.

Thank you again for this opportunity to discuss League concerns.

Testimony presented to the Metropolitan Council
Re the Solid Waste Management Development Guide Policy Plan
January 28, 1985
by Jeanne Crampton, Natural Resources Chair
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

In 1973, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, along with Leagues nationwide, adopted a position on solid waste that said: "We will support policies to reduce the non-essential part of the waste stream, recover its nonreducible portion and ensure safe disposal of the rest." In addition, the Minnesota League also adopted a position that supported measures to reduce generation of solid waste.

We applaud the Metropolitan Council for the development of the Solid Waste Management Development Plan under consideration today. We are particularly supportive of the portions of the plan dealing with source separation and deletion of unprocessed waste into landfills. Today we would like to comment on three areas that, while mentioned in the plan, we feel might benefit from more extensive consideration.

On page 49 of the draft, under "Financial Incentives," is listed "(5) deposits on beer and soft drink containers." As you may know, LWVMN has supported the enactment of a state deposit law for a number of years, and made an intensive effort, along with the Container Conservation Coalition last year, to pass such a law, and failed, in the face of labor and industry opposition. (One of the leaders in that opposition was Brockway Glass and its employees' union.) At that time we made the point that jobs were being lost in the glass industry not because of deposit laws (nine states have such laws), but because of the inroads of the plastic container. We still feel that statement is true, and are concerned about the impact on Minnesota landfills when individual plastic (PET) containers are marketed here. Far better to have a return system in place when the plastic arrives than to be locking the barn door later. There is no reason why a deposit law, either statewide or in the Metro area, could not be entirely compatible with a source separation system. One thing to keep in mind is that while source separation costs are going to be borne by municipalities and generators, a beverage deposit system is a closed loop that operates between the generating industry, the retailer and the consumer. The government does not have

to develop an overseeing bureaucracy. There are costs, of course, and those are passed on by the industry to the consumer, just as is any product cost. However, we believe from the experience in other states that the cost (after an initial period) remains competitive with non-deposit states, and the problems of material reuse and disposal remain with the industry that generated them in the first place.

I have attached a summary of a report commissioned by the New York State Beer Wholesalers Association and compiled at Long Island University which I think covers the subject nicely, particularly if one recalls that the Wholesalers Association was a major opponent. An interesting point is that Long Island County had a deposit law for several years before a statewide law was adopted in New York. We urge the Metropolitan Council to seriously consider the benefits of a deposit law in conjunction with their request for mandatory source separation. We think the cost might prove to be less overall than including beverage containers in a source separation program.

Market development was discussed in several places in the Guide, and the Council indicated that they had started preliminary research on the constraints and opportunities for market development in the region. While there is no question but that market development (which we assume means finding industries willing to buy such recycled material) is important, we feel such investigation needs to go a step further and support research and development of entirely new products that can be made from recycled raw material. Aluminum, glass and paper already have established markets, although if recycling efforts do provide an eventual 70 percent return, new product development will be necessary even for those materials. Plastic containers, however, have enjoyed a phenomenal growth over the last five years, and consumers seem to prefer them in many cases, so it would seem they will continue to gain in the marketplace.

Product development is extremely important if we are to keep these containers from being either landfilled or needlessly burned. One can always question the advisability of using a non-renewable resource such as petroleum to make a disposable container, but since the container industry has embarked on such a program, and shows no sign of discontinuing it, the feasible approach would be to retrieve those containers and make them into a useful product, as is already happening in deposit states. Research programs could be funded at the University of Minnesota, or other educational facilities.

New industries could be developed in depressed areas of Minnesota, providing much needed jobs, using a resource locally available. "Product development" is as important as market development.

Lastly, we commend the Council for reiterating the need for citizen education and publicity as a means to convince metropolitan citizens of the necessity for generator source separation and other measures to successfully attack our solid waste problems. We think that increasingly over the past five years, citizens have become more aware of that problem, and are also aware that their participation, mandatory if need be, is required. Last spring, a survey by the St. Paul Pioneer Press indicated that over 70 percent of the state's residents would support a deposit law, and recent surveys by the University of Minnesota reflect increased (from 1980) support for mandatory source separation.

Advisory groups need to be established in every municipality to coordinate efforts at publicizing solid waste problems. At the same time, environmental and citizen groups should be asked to help. We strongly recommend that some subsidy be established to help these groups, most of whom operate on a financial shoestring. Many of these groups have a long history of mobilizing their members and other citizens in support of issues that have seemed, at least initially, unpopular. We would also recommend that when the Council forms a "technical advisory committee for regional public education and awareness," that a representative of the environmental and/or citizen groups be added to those already mentioned. (Page 61 of the draft.)

Thank you very much for your consideration of the above issues. Should you have questions or want further information on League of Women Voters' positions, please contact Jeanne Crampton, 4330 Wooddale Avenue So., St. Louis Park, MN 55424, 612/926-8760.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

March 2, 1984

COPY

Sandra Gardebring
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
1935 W. County Road B-2
St. Paul, MN 55113

Dear Ms. Gardebring:

I am writing to you to correct some misinformation contained in a letter to you, dated February 23, 1984, from Dave Locey, Executive Vice President of the Minnesota Soft Drink Association.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota received no grant money from the MPCA and/or the EPA to hold the Waste Alert Meetings. LWVMN agreed to cosponsor these meetings with the MPCA and the Sierra Club, as a way of putting a broad range of solid waste issues before the public.

As indicated to Mr. Locey in a phone conversation on February 23rd, the LWVMN's 501(c)(4) tax status does allow the organization to do "grassroots" lobbying. Grants made to our organization, which are tax-deductible for the donors, go to the League of Women Voters Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization, and are spent only on approved citizen education projects and not on advocacy. LWVMN carefully separates its lobbying/membership activities and funds from LWVEF educational activities and funds.

Finally, as I told Mr. Locey, because of our 501(c)(4) tax status, membership dues to the League of Women Voters are not, and never have been, tax deductible.

The League of Women Voters does agree that when public money is used for citizen education activities, every effort should be made to ensure an opportunity for full discussion of all points of view.

Sincerely,

Sally Sawyer
Sally Sawyer
Executive Director

SS/rk

cc: Dave Locey
Jim Lloyd
Governor Rudy Perpich
Mike Flanagan ✓
Win Borden



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

MEMO

TO: Tews, Buffington, Crampton, Grimsby

FROM: Sally

SUBJECT: Dave Locey, Soft Drink
Association

DATE: 2/23/84

Had a conversation with Mr. Locey today. He questioned our participation -co-sponsorship- with the Waste Management Board of the Solid Waste forums being held around the state. He questions whether tax payers money should be used to promote specific issues (container deposit legislation) without at least giving an opportunity for all sides to be heard. Remember that before we decided to do this the Action Committee agonized about it.

What irked him was that he saw Eric Petty was scheduled to speak about container deposit legislation. I reminded him that Darby Nelson was also speaking about the solid waste bill. He said that he would be more upset "if he didn't have the votes on container deposit legislation --ha, ha".

He particularly wanted to know how the League of Women Voters could do something like this as a 501c3 organization (Education Fund). I took particular pleasure in telling him that LWVMN is a 501c4, non-tax-deductible , organization and that we are allowed to lobby, which took some of the wind out of his sails. I explained that we were very careful about separating our funds for action, membership activities from our citizen education efforts; he accepted that and asked lots of good questions . . . he's pretty sharp.

The larger issue he raises about the appropriateness of government agencies promoting particular pieces of legislation without providing opportunity for full debate and with taxpayers' money is a valid one. If we do this in the future we should raise the issue of balance or at least consider it. He is going to write a letter to the MPCA and the Governor and send us a copy. I agreed with him that it was a valid issue and that we would follow up by evaluating the formats of the forums.

filed



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102
PHONE: (612) 224-5445

MEMO

TO: All Deposit Legislation/Recycling
Committee Members
FROM: Nancy Grimsby and Jeanne Crampton
SUBJECT: Meeting
DATE: May 4, 1982

Deposit Legislation/Recycling Committee Meeting
May 25, 1982
9:30 a.m.
State League Office

Attached you will find a list of persons who appeared at the first meeting of this committee on March 11th, plus three others who notified us that they wish to join. Those who agreed to investigate specific states or communities are identified as well. We hope that by now some information and answers are beginning to trickle in! (Joanne Englund got a quick response to her query to Columbia, Missouri. Michael R. Sanford, Deputy City Manager replied with, "I am the deposit law czar," and a lot of information. In reply to the question about who was unhappy with the law he said, "1. Those who like to drive around in pick-up trucks with rifles in the back who like to drink beer and throw cans out the windows; and 2., more importantly, the beverage industry."

Our next meeting will be May 25th. If it is at all possible, would you try and condense the information you have received into a readable or tellable report, with specific emphasis on information you feel you still need to receive, or that is unclear? If you have been given other names or locations to contact, please follow up. At that time we will regroup in light of what we know at that point and forge on.

I have received another copy of the Michigan Report (published by a Special Joint Legislative Committee) that studied the Impact of Michigan's Deposit Legislation. With this copy was included a "Minority Report" signed by Matthew McNeely, Speaker Pro Tempore, State Rep. 16th District, that I had not received before. Rep. McNeely queries some of the information in the original report and in some cases flatly says it is not true. I am now trying to sort out fact from fiction. Meantime, some of the points he brings up may be of help to you in asking questions of other areas:

1. Counts of containers returned to wholesalers from retailers. "...many wholesalers give refunds for 240 cans only to find less, or to find many foreign containers (not from Michigan) ...which have no refund value.
2. Decrease in the cost of scrap steel, "...well over 50% in the last year."
3. "The report advises that some aluminum companies have supplied can crushing equipment and storage units for distributors. The report fails to point out, however, that distributors must purchase glass crushers and sorters and trucks to haul the crushed glass (cull) to the processing plant."
4. Difficulty of retailers and wholesalers in providing for the storage of containers.
5. Sanitation problems. Containers returned have residue that breeds bacteria and attracts insect pests.
6. "The report says members of the committee have personally observed that Michigan roadsides appear to have less litter than those in neighboring states. Are all members of the committee willing to verify that they have personally checked Michigan roadsides and compared them with other states?" (Kind of picky! I have, and I'll have to side with the committee report.)
7. Some problem with green glass. "The situation was so bad that one Dearborn wholesaler was within one day of using a landfill to discard his green glass. The problem of finding appropriate waste redemption centers continues."

8. "After admitting there are increased costs for fuel, handling of bottles, and labor, the report states, '...it is likely that less energy overall is consumed under a deposit system...' There are no facts to support this statement." Has anyone gotten any information from another area that would indicate they did any study on this sort of thing? (We have a rather quick study done by a consulting firm for a MN Legislative Committee last year that has some assumptions.)
9. Problems with border locations. Mr. McNeely says that wholesalers are affected as well as retailers -- some say their business is down by as much as 50%.
10. "...I believe the notion of retailer agents, or regional recycling centers, would create an added burden for the consumer and a significant economic imposition on wholesalers who have already outlaid millions of dollars for the equipment necessary to implement the law in good faith. (ED. note -- evidently Michigan is talking about establishing recycling centers.) Keep in mind that a regional recycling center would have to do many of the things that wholesalers have already done in terms of capital outlay. In effect, the regional recycling center would be duplicating the efforts of wholesalers; again, at additional cost to the consumers. Ultimately, the regional recycling center would be picking up returnables from some retailers and wholesalers would be picking up from others."

I hope, without reading the Michigan Report itself, these criticisms give you some idea of the scope of the argument. I will be in Michigan from April 22 until May 5 or so, and hope to get some of this sorted out during that time.

Please be sure to keep track of any material you receive, since when we put our report together we will want to carefully footnote and identify any statistics or specifics that we use. I am hoping that we can come up with a really definitive study on the subject!

If you can't make the meeting on May 25th, would you let either Nan or I know ahead of time, and if you have a report, mail it in? We aren't worried about a slick presentation; rough drafts are fine.

See you in May, Jeanne Crampton, 926-8760
Nan Grimsby, 922-9403

STATE LWV DEPOSIT LEGISLATION/RECYCLING COMMITTEE

March 11, 1982

Marjory Adams
112333 Chatfield
Chaska, MN 55318
448-3356
Woodbury, N.J.

Sheila Brunelle
1252 Ohio Street
West St. Paul, MN 55118
457-9230
Delaware

Lois Cheney
3156 Dakota Avenue South
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
929-5766

Washington State Litter Law Common Cause

Mary Davies
1001 South 10th Street
Moorhead, MN 56560
(218) 233-2175
Suffolk County, New York

Joanne Englund
St. Paul Public Works
600 City Hall Annex
St. Paul, MN 55102
292-7264
Columbia, Missouri

Karen Evens
1910 10th Avenue South, #4
St. Cloud, MN 56301
Leave Message: 253-5651
Maine

Katie Fournier
912 18th Avenue Southeast
Minneapolis, MN 55414
331-5615
Ontario

Andrea Grix
8860 Lincoln Street Northeast
Blaine, MN 55434
784-6630

Michigan United Conservation Club

Charlotte Helseth
4311 Bloomington Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407
721-3901
Connecticut

Dorothy Lace
7445 11th Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423
866-5488
Iowa

Joyce Lake
555 Wabasha
St. Paul, MN 55102
227-9139

Eleanor Lipsohn
606 Main
Winona, MN 55987
(507) 454-6590

Mertyce Mayne
1479 Hythe
St. Paul, MN 55108
645-4007

Connie Metcalf
860 W. Moore Lake Drive
Fridley, MN 55432
571-3596
Vermont

Linda Peck
Route #4
St. Cloud, MN 56301
685-3365

Massachusetts, National Deposit Legislation

Leola Rempel
1424 Belmont Lane
Roseville, MN 55113
631-1509
Recycling in St. Paul

Mary Lou Wheeler
2086 Iglehart
St. Paul, MN 55104
645-8746
Oregon

Above are listed participants in the League of Women Voters of Minnesota study committee on deposit legislation and recycling. Each person's area of investigation is listed below her name.

Jeanne Crampton
4330 Wooddale Avenue South
St. Louis Park, MN 55424
926-8760
Michigan

N.R. Co-chairs

Nancy Grimsby
5932 Wooddale Avenue
Edina, MN 55424
922-9403

files



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

May 11, 1982

Joann C. Nelson
President, Board of Directors
Recycling Unlimited
308 South Victoria Street
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Joann;

The League of Women Voters has supported recycling efforts throughout the state of Minnesota for many years.

Many of us have watched your organization, Recycling Unlimited, grow from a collection center at your home to the well organized multi service recycling operation that you now operate. We applaud your efforts and wish you continued success. It is because of operations like yours that recycling has continued to grow and it is necessary that organizations such as yours continue to grow if recycling is to remain as a solution to the growing problem of solid waste disposal.

Leaguers have been very active in recycling activities throughout the state. Leaguers have helped establish recycling centers in many communities and have continued to organize, manage and support recycling centers in their communities. We find it impossible to nominate one over the other at this time.

Thank you for including us in your plans and we wish you continued success.

Sincerely,

Nancy Grimsby

Nancy Grimsby
Natural Resources Co-Chair

NG/rk

TIME FOR ACTION -

DEPOSIT LEGISLATION
NATURAL RESOURCES

To: Local Leagues Presidents and/or Action Chairs
From: Jeanne Crampton, Natural Resources Co-chair (926-8760); Harriette Burkhalter,
President; Jean Tews, Action Chair
Re: Deposit Legislation
Date: April 3, 1981

On March 31st the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee passed SF 382 (Luther, Ulland, Merriam, Willet and Dahl) by a 7 to 6 vote. The bill as passed in no way resembled the bill that was originally filed (which was a companion to HF 748). SF 382 would simply require that Industry recycle or reuse a certain mandatory percentage, yearly, of the containers that they distribute. The state would not regulate in any way how the beverage containers were returned--that would be left to Industry to decide. All beverage containers, including those with juice and water, would be included, although milk containers would not.

Yesterday, April 2nd, the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee passed out HF 748 (Dean, Munger) with an 18 to 6 vote. This bill, also heavily amended since filing, still resembles the more traditional deposit legislation. As it presently stands, a 3¢ deposit would be levied on all beverage containers, including juice, spring water, and milk. Distributors would submit monthly reports, along with 3¢ deposit for each container sold to retail dealers in the previous month. A fund would be established by the state, and recycling centers, established by the private sector, would refund the containers from the public. The state would disburse to the recyclers 3¢ for each container returned. The recycler would keep 1¢ and refund 2¢ per container to the public. Administrative costs to the state would be covered, it is estimated, by the unredeemed portion of the fund. The bill covers other areas, including education and labor studies, but basically, it is a fairly straight-forward deposit bill.

The LWVMN has testified in committee in favor of both of the above bills. Neither is a perfect vehicle as now written, but the feeling is that if we can only get a foot in the door, perhaps we can do more later. We feel that 3¢ is too low a deposit to be effective but are willing to give it a try, if the bill can be passed. There are certainly gaps in the concept of the other bill ("let industry do it"), specifically in how the state will be able to verify the distributors claims as to amount of containers reclaimed, but this bill does seem to offer some areas of compromise with labor and industry opponents.

We have supported deposit legislation since 1973, and it would be nice if we could finally lay this issue to rest. SF 382 will go directly to the floor of the Senate for a vote; HF 748 will have to get through the Appropriations Committee before going to the House.

The last CAPITOL LETTER contains some of the background on these bills, particularly SF 382. Please note, however, that milk containers have been removed from the Senate bill at this time.

(over)

WHAT TO DO: Contact your Representatives to vote "YES" on HF 748.
Contact your Senators to vote "YES" on SF 382.

If you have Representatives on the Appropriations Committee, urge an early passage out of Committee of HF 748 and point out that the fund from unredeemed deposits will cover the administrative costs - plus.

SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE - VOTES ON SF 382

YES

Merriam, DFL-Coon Rapids
Davis, DFL-Princeton
Langseth, DFL-Glyndon
Luther, DFL-Brooklyn Park
Penny, DFL-New Richland
Setzepfandt, DFL-Bird Island
Ulland, IR-Duluth
Willett, DFL-Park Rapids

NO

Bernhagen, IR-Hutchinson
Bertram, DFL-Paynesville
Engler, IR-Randolph
Lessard, DFL-International Falls
Rued, IR-Aitkin
Wegener, DFL-Bertha

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE - VOTES ON HF 748

YES

Munger, DFL-Duluth
D. Carlson, IR-Sandstone
W. Dean, IR-Mpls. (author)
J. Drew, IR-St. Paul
R. Ellingson, DFL-Brooklyn Park
D. Fjoslien, IR-Brandon
W. Hanson - DFL, St. Paul
P. Kahn, DFL-Minneapolis
R. Kostohryz, DFL-North St. Paul
A. Lehto, DFL-Duluth
R. Lemen, IR-Grand Rapids
D. Long, DFL-Mpls.
K. Nelson, DFL-Mpls.
L. Reding, DFL-Austin
J. Rose, IR-Roseville
J. Schoenfeld, DFL-Waseca
W. Skoglund, DFL-Mpls.
R. Vanasek, DFL-New Prague

NO

D. Battaglia, DFL-Two Harbors
J. Begich, DFL-Eveleth
G. DenOuden, IR-Prinsberg
C. Ludeman, IR-Tracy
W. Stowell, IR-Lewiston
J. Weaver, IR-Anoka

ABSENT

M. Nysether, IR-Roseau
B. Peterson, IR-Bloomington

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Sieben, M., DFL-Newport
Hokanson, DFL-Richfield
Anderson, G., DFL-Bellingham
Anderson, R., IR-Ottertail
Battaglia, DFL-Two Harbors
Berkelman, DFL-Duluth
Carlson, L., DFL-Brooklyn Center
Dean, IR-Minneapolis
Den Ouden, IR-Prinsburg
Ellingson, DFL-Brooklyn Park

Erickson, IR-Hills
Forsythe, IR-Edina
Haukoos, IR-Albert Lea
Johnson, D., IR-Willmar
Kahn, DFL-Minneapolis
Kalis, DFL-Walters
Laidig, IR-Stillwater
Mehrkens, IR-Red Wing
Metzen, DFL-South St. Paul
Munger, DFL-Duluth

Nelsen, B., IR-Staples
Osthoff, DFL-St. Paul
Piepho, IR-Mankato
Reif, IR-White Bear Lake
Rice, DFL-Minneapolis
Samuelson, DFL-Brainerd
Schoenfeld, DFL-Waseca
Stadum, IR-Ada
Staten, DFL-Minneapolis
Swanson, DFL-Richfield

Valan, IR-Moorhead
Voss, DFL-Blaine
Weaver, IR-Anoka
Welch, DFL-Cambridge
Welker, IR-Montevideo
Wieser, IR-LaCrescent
Wynia, DFL-St. Paul

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R. Ellingson, DFL-Brooklyn Park
D. Fjoslien, IR-Brandon
W. Hanson - DFL, St. Paul
P. Kahn, DFL-Minneapolis
R. Kostohryz, DFL-North St. Paul
A. Lehto, DFL-Duluth
R. Lemen, IR-Grand Rapids
D. Long, DFL-Mpls.
K. Nelson, DFL-Mpls.
L. Reding, DFL-Austin
J. Rose, IR-Roseville
J. Schoenfeld, DFL-Waseca
W. Skoglund, DFL-Mpls.
R. Vanasek, DFL-New Prague

NO

D. Battaglia, DFL-Two Harbors
J. Begich, DFL-Eveleth
G. DenOuden, IR-Prinsberg
C. Ludeman, IR-Tracy
W. Stowell, IR-Lewiston
J. Weaver, IR-Anoka

ABSENT

M. Nysether, IR-Roseau
B. Peterson, IR-Bloomington

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Sieben, M., DFL-Newport
Hokanson, DFL-Richfield
Anderson, G., DFL-Bellingham
Anderson, R., IR-Ottertail
Battaglia, DFL-Two Harbors
Berkelman, DFL-Duluth
Carlson, L., DFL-Brooklyn Center
Dean, IR-Minneapolis
Den Ouden, IR-Prinsburg
Ellingson, DFL-Brooklyn Park

Erickson, IR-Hills
Forsythe, IR-Edina
Haukoos, IR-Albert Lea
Johnson, D., IR-Willmar
Kahn, DFL-Minneapolis
Kalis, DFL-Walters
Laidig, IR-Stillwater
Mehrkens, IR-Red Wing
Metzen, DFL-South St. Paul
Munger, DFL-Duluth

Nelsen, B., IR-Staples
Osthoff, DFL-St. Paul
Piepho, IR-Mankato
Reif, IR-White Bear Lake
Rice, DFL-Minneapolis
Samuelson, DFL-Brainerd
Schoenfeld, DFL-Waseca
Stadum, IR-Ada
Staten, DFL-Minneapolis
Swanson, DFL-Richfield

Valan, IR-Moorhead
Voss, DFL-Blaine
Weaver, IR-Anoka
Welch, DFL-Cambridge
Welker, IR-Montevideo
Wieser, IR-LaCrescent
Wynia, DFL-St. Paul

Testimony
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
by
Jeanne Crampton, Natural Resources Co-chair
S.F. 382 (amended)
March 31, 1981

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has been testifying, to little effect, since 1973 in favor of some form of deposit legislation. It has been evident in the past several years that consideration of this topic is at a real impasse. Although we recognize that S.F. 382 as amended may not be a perfect vehicle to implement reuse and recycling of beverage containers, it does seem to contain at least the seeds of compromise, and we are cautiously optimistic that it can take us off of dead center on this question. We find it hard to believe that this type of legislation is not preferable to industry over the imposition of a deposit law. The League testified this morning over in the House in favor of H.F. 748, which would implement a 3¢ deposit and recycling law--adding that we preferred a 10¢ deposit. We aren't fussy how it's done--let's just get at it!

Industry has been telling us that when it comes to recycling, they can do it better than anyone. We think they should be allowed to try--with suitable safeguards to insure performance, of course. If no compromise can be reached with this sort of approach, then perhaps the Minnesota Legislature will consider traditional deposit legislation in a more favorable light.

We have two concerns with S.F. 382 as it is presently drafted. One is simply how the industry and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency are going to agree on the accuracy and verification of containers distributed and returned. Secondly, we are concerned that an effort such as this will result in the industry "skimming" the lucrative products off the top of the recycling pile, leaving the less desirable material (such as paper and used oil) essentially uncollected. We don't think answers to these questions are impossible to achieve and believe suggestions for overcoming such shortcomings can be made. We urge the committee to pass this bill out for discussion and passage by the Senate.

files

Testimony
for House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
by
Jeanne Crampton, Natural Resources Co-chair
H.F. 748
March 31, 1981

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has supported legislation that would establish a deposit-return cycle for all types of beverage containers for a number of years.

One of the most positive effects of a deposit law is the reduction in solid waste. Several cities in Michigan have reported solid waste reductions of six percent overall by volume, since implementation of their 10¢ deposit law several years ago. (If there had not been an increase in other litter between 1977 and 1979, the drop in beverage container litter and litter related to the deposit would have reduced total litter by 21.4 percent.) Nearly 100 percent of the one-way beverage bottles and cans are being recycled. Both Alcoa and Reynolds have established recycling centers in Michigan since the advent of the deposit law. Their recycling operations supply the beer distributor free of charge with a machine that automatically crushes cans and loads the metal into 40-foot trailers, which are also supplied by the recycling company.

One-way glass bottles are broken or crushed by beer distributors and sold to Owens-Illinois for about \$32 per ton. (There is a plant in southern Michigan.) Plastic bottles are ground into small pieces by the bottlers and sold as scrap to one of several companies for 2¢ to 5¢ per pound, or \$40 to \$100 per ton. Benefits other than reduction of solid waste were an increase in employment (240 jobs lost as opposed to 4,648 gained) and an approximate reduction of 33 percent total energy use. (The above information was taken from a Report by the Comptroller General of the United States dated December 11, 1980: "States' Experience With Beverage Container Deposit Laws Shows Positive Benefits.")

Suggestions have been made that Minnesota should adopt a "litter law" such as that adopted by the State of Washington in 1971. The League opposes such a law, since it does nothing to reduce the generation of solid waste, conserve energy, or actually, reduce litter. What it does do is create a bureaucracy to administer the collection of litter and add a litter fee to

(more)

groceries, food, cigarettes, newspapers, magazines, and a whole range of other products, as well as beverage containers. While a litter-free environment is undoubtedly desirable, we all need to address the farther-reaching problems of energy shortages and waste facility siting when we consider deposit and recycling legislation.

We are entirely in support of the deposit concept advanced in H.F. 748. We would be much more satisfied if the deposit were 10¢ rather than one of only 3¢. The League is concerned that the deposit concept not be adopted only to fail because the financial incentive, which is, after all, the backbone of the law, is too low to be effective. If the law is established with a 3¢ deposit, we will work hard for implementation, but we also hope that the Legislature will consider raising the deposit level if an initial trial period proves that 3¢ is too low. It is indicative of the success of deposit legislation that states where it has been adopted are uniformly agreed that it should be maintained. (Michigan's law was adopted by citizen initiative, and one assumes that it could be similarly rescinded, but there is no such movement afoot.)

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OHIO
65 SOUTH FOURTH STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
614/469-1505

OCT 10 1980

OCTOBER 1980
ON LEADERSHIP MAILING

THE CASE FOR RETURNABLES IV
(REPLACING I, II & III)

DID YOU KNOW -

- THAT A REFILLABLE SOFT DRINK BOTTLE COSTS YOU 1¢ PER TRIP AND MAKES AN AVERAGE OF 15 ROUND TRIPS; A NONREFILLABLE CONTAINER COSTS AN AVERAGE OF 7¢ PLUS A CONTAINER FOR YOU TO DISPOSE OF SINCE IT MAKES NO ROUND TRIPS?
- THAT A GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE STUDY PROJECTS THAT BY 1981 WE WILL CONSUME 90 BILLION BEVERAGE CANS AND NO-DEPOSIT NO-RETURN BOTTLES EACH YEAR?

REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT LEGISLATION WAS PLACED ON THE NOVEMBER 1979 BALLOT BY INITIATIVE PETITION. THOUGH THE ISSUE WAS DEFEATED, THE CAMPAIGN ALERTED A GOOD MANY OHIOANS TO THE NECESSITY FOR REDUCING WASTE AND CONSERVING RESOURCES TO SAVE ENERGY AND CONSUMER AND TAXPAYER DOLLARS. THE OHIO LEGISLATURE (JUNE 1980) PASSED A LITTER TAX TO SUPPORT AN EDUCATIONAL AND MOTIVATIONAL PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR LITTER CONTROL AND RECYCLING.

ENERGY CONSERVATION: USE OF A REFILLABLE BOTTLE, ACCORDING TO THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA), SAVES ONE-HALF OF THE ENERGY THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN NEEDED TO PRODUCE A NONREFILLABLE BOTTLE OR CAN. THIS INCLUDES ENERGY USED IN MANUFACTURE, PACKAGING, TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION AND RETURNING EMPTIES. WHILE USING REFILLABLES REQUIRES EVEN LESS ENERGY THAN MAKING CANS OUT OF RECYCLED METAL, JUST USING RECYCLED ALUMINUM AND STEEL WOULD SAVE 78% AND 39%, RESPECTIVELY, OF THE ENERGY REQUIRED TO MAKE CANS FROM VIRGIN RESOURCES. IN FACT $\frac{1}{3}$ OF 1% OF OUR NATION'S ENTIRE ENERGY CONSUMPTION IS USED JUST IN THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF BEER AND SOFT DRINKS. EPA ESTIMATES THAT IN 1975, 465 TRILLION BTUs* OF ENERGY WERE USED BY THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER INDUSTRY. BY 1980, THE FIGURE IS PROJECTED TO SURPASS 580 TRILLION BTUs. A GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE STUDY PREDICTS NATIONAL DEPOSIT LEGISLATION WOULD RESULT IN A SAVINGS OF 32-43% OF THAT AMOUNT OF ENERGY. OREGON, THE FIRST STATE TO MANDATE THE USE OF RETURNABLE CONTAINERS FOR BEER AND SOFT DRINKS, REPORTS THAT ITS DEPOSIT LAW IS WORKING AND ESTIMATES IT IS CONSERVING ENOUGH ENERGY TO HEAT THE HOMES OF 50,000 RESIDENTS.

CONSUMER SAVINGS: A RECENT SURVEY FOR EPA OF SOFT DRINK BOTTLES ALONE FOUND THAT SOFT DRINKS IN NONREFILLABLES COST CONSUMERS ALMOST $1\frac{1}{2}$ TIMES MORE THAN IN REFILLABLES. THE PRESIDENT OF COCA COLA USA TESTIFIED BEFORE CONGRESS THAT "COKE SOLD IN FOOD STORES IN NONRETURNABLE PACKAGES IS PRICED, ON THE AVERAGE, 30-40% HIGHER THAN COCA COLA IN RETURNABLE BOTTLES. THE DIFFERENCE LIES ESSENTIALLY IN THE DIFFERENT COSTS IN PACKAGING. THE COST OF RETURNABLES IS SPREAD OVER MANY USES; THE COST OF THE NONRETURNABLE PACKAGE IS ABSORBED IN ONE USE." STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT THE AVERAGE FAMILY IN VERMONT (WHICH HAS HAD REFILLABLE LEGISLATION SINCE 1973) CAN SAVE \$60 A YEAR BY PURCHASING BEVERAGES IN REFILLABLES. THE FEDERAL ENERGY ADMINISTRATION STUDY PROJECTED A SAVINGS OF \$1.8 BILLION ANNUALLY FOR CONSUMERS. ACCORDING TO THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE, "A MANDATORY DEPOSIT WILL NOT ELIMINATE THROWAWAY CONVENIENCE BUT WILL CHARGE EVEN MORE FOR IT. A CONSUMER WOULD BE ABLE TO PURCHASE BEVERAGES IN ANY TYPE OF CONTAINER AND THROW THE CONTAINER AWAY IF HE/SHE PLEASES. THE CONSUMER WHO CHOOSES TO ACT IN THAT FASHION WOULD LOSE THE DEPOSIT, NOT CONVENIENCE; CONVENIENCE WOULD BEGIN TO HAVE A DEFINITE, ATTRIBUTABLE COST."

MORE THAN 5 BILLION BEER AND SOFT DRINK CONTAINERS WILL BE LITTERED ANNUALLY BY 1980, ACCORDING TO AN EPA ESTIMATE. BEVERAGE CONTAINERS MAKE UP 60-70% OF ROADSIDE LITTER BY VOLUME. THROWAWAYS ALSO ADD 9 MILLION TONS OF TRASH EACH YEAR; OHIO EPA ESTIMATES 486,000 TONS FOR OHIO ALONE. BEVERAGE CONTAINERS ARE THE FASTEST GROWING CATEGORY OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE, INCREASING 8% ANNUALLY. PASSAGE OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION WOULD CUT ABOUT \$500 MILLION ANNUALLY FROM GARBAGE COLLECTION COSTS AS WELL AS REDUCE LITTER PICKUP BY \$200 MILLION A YEAR. THE VERMONT HIGHWAY

DEPARTMENT SAVED OVER 31% IN COSTS FOR LITTER PICKUP WHILE NOTING A 76% REDUCTION IN ROADSIDE LITTER AFTER 1 YEAR (THE DISCREPANCY IS EXPLAINED BY HIGHER LABOR AND EQUIPMENT COSTS). OHIO SPENT \$931,000 IN 1976 FOR LITTER PICKUP JUST ALONG STATE AND FEDERAL HIGHWAYS.

"HIDDEN" COSTS ARE THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL LANDFILL SPACE AND DAMAGE TO LAWNMOWERS, CAR TIRES, FARM CROPS AND FARM EQUIPMENT--THE LATTER TWO NECESSARILY PASSED ON TO THE CONSUMER IN THE FORM OF HIGHER FOOD AND FIBER COSTS. INJURIES CAUSED BY LITTER TO HUMANS (ESTIMATED BY RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE TO BE \$10 MILLION IN 1978), PETS AND WILDLIFE MUST ALSO BE CONSIDERED. INDUSTRY CLAIMS OF A \$5 BILLION EXPENSE OF CONVERTING TO A REFILLABLE SYSTEM ARE COUNTERED BY A GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE STUDY WHICH SHOWS THE CONVERSION COSTS WOULD BE MORE THAN OFFSET BY RETAINED DEPOSITS AND REDUCED CONTAINER PURCHASE COSTS FOR A NET GAIN OF \$1 BILLION

EMPLOYMENT: A NET INCREASE IN JOBS WOULD RESULT FROM PASSAGE OF DEPOSIT LEGISLATION, ACCORDING TO RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE, OREGON, MASSACHUSETTS AND MICHIGAN STUDIES. IN 1976 THE FEDERAL ENERGY ADMINISTRATION ESTIMATED NATIONAL LEGISLATION WOULD GIVE A NET INCREASE OF 118,000 JOBS AND \$879 MILLION IN LABOR INCOME. THE REASON: MANUFACTURE OF THROWAWAYS IS CAPITAL AND ENERGY INTENSIVE, WHILE REFILLING AND RECYCLING ARE LABOR INTENSIVE. AS WITH ANY TECHNOLOGICAL OR SOCIAL CHANGE, THERE WILL BE SOME ADJUSTMENT IN THE JOB MARKET. OAR RETURNABLES LEGISLATION PROVIDES FOR A TWO-YEAR PHASE-IN PERIOD TO MINIMIZE THE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON BUSINESS AND WORKERS IN OHIO. THE BEVERAGE INDUSTRY ACTUALLY CAUSED MANY THOUSANDS OF JOBS TO BE LOST WHEN IT CENTRALIZED ITS OPERATIONS AND SHIFTED TO THE THROWAWAY SYSTEM. A U.S. BUREAU OF CENSUS REPORT SHOWED THAT 26,300 WORKERS LOST THEIR JOBS IN THE BREWING INDUSTRY BETWEEN 1958 AND 1974. THIS LOSS OF JOBS WAS DUE TO DECISIONS WITHIN THE INDUSTRY TO CONCENTRATE ON THE HIGHLY AUTOMATED THROWAWAY MARKET.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION: UNLESS THE THROWAWAY ETHIC IS REVERSED, THE NEED FOR RAW MATERIAL IMPORTS WILL CONTINUE TO GROW. IN 1975 THE U.S. BEVERAGE CONTAINER INDUSTRY USED 6.8 MILLION TONS OF GLASS, 1.5 MILLION TONS OF STEEL AND ALMOST 500 THOUSAND TONS OF ALUMINUM TO MAKE BEER AND SOFT DRINK CONTAINERS, MOST OF WHICH WERE USED ONCE AND THROWN AWAY. DEPENDENCE ON OVERSEAS SUPPLIES FOR MATERIALS IS ESPECIALLY CRITICAL IN THE ALUMINUM INDUSTRY. THE U.S. CURRENTLY IMPORTS 85% OF ITS ALUMINUM AND BAUXITE, THE RAW MATERIAL USED TO MAKE ALUMINUM. HENCE THE ALUMINUM COMPANIES HAVE BEEN MOST SUPPORTIVE OF RECYCLING EFFORTS BUT EVEN SO, ONLY 1 CAN IN 4 IS RETURNED. ALCOA STATES: "WE HAVE TROUBLE SEEING THE NATIONAL FIGURE GOING BEYOND 50% THROUGH VOLUNTARY RECYCLING. MAKING ALL CONTAINERS RETURNABLE THROUGH UNIFORM DEPOSITS, ON THE OTHER HAND, WILL DRAMATICALLY INCREASE THE PERCENTAGE OF RETURNS." STATES WITH SIMILAR LEGISLATION REPORT A 90% RETURN OF REFILLABLE CONTAINERS. EVEN IF 80% OF THE BIMETAL CANS WERE RETURNED FOR RECYCLING, IRON ORE REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE REDUCED BY ABOUT 2 MILLION TONS IN 1985. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT REDUCTION SINCE 1/3 OF U.S. IRON ORE IS NOW IMPORTED. NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, A THROWAWAY CAN OR BOTTLE IS A WASTE.

CONCLUSION: ALTHOUGH THERE ARE VARIATIONS IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL LAWS, OREGON, VERMONT, CONNECTICUT, IOWA AND DELAWARE HAVE RETURNABLE LEGISLATION PASSED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE LEGISLATURES WHILE MAINE AND MICHIGAN USED THE INITIATIVE PETITION PROCEDURE SIMILAR TO THAT IN OHIO. MANDATORY DEPOSITS ARE ALSO IN EFFECT IN NATIONAL PARKS AND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. PUBLIC SUPPORT OF A MANDATORY DEPOSIT LAW IS STRONG AND SEEMS TO GROW WITH EXPERIENCE. IN VERMONT AFTER THEIR LAW HAD BEEN IN EFFECT FOR OVER TWO YEARS, 93% RESPONDED TO A POLL BY SAYING THAT A NATIONAL DEPOSIT LAW SHOULD BE PASSED. NATIONAL POLLS HAVE SHOWN THAT 73% OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC SUPPORT A DEPOSIT BILL.

*BTU: BRITISH THERMAL UNIT, THE QUANTITY OF HEAT REQUIRED TO INCREASE THE TEMPERATURE OF ONE POUND OF WATER ONE DEGREE FAHRENHEIT.

File

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Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
by
Jeanne Crampton, Natural Resources Co-chair
S.F. 382 (amended)
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We have two concerns with S.F. 382 as it is presently drafted. One is simply how the industry and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency are going to agree on the accuracy and verification of containers distributed and returned. Secondly, we are concerned that an effort such as this will result in the industry "skimming" the lucrative products off the top of the recycling pile, leaving the less desirable material (such as paper and used oil) essentially uncollected. We don't think answers to these questions are impossible to achieve and believe suggestions for overcoming such shortcomings can be made. We urge the committee to pass this bill out for discussion and passage by the Senate.

Filed



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

March 18, 1981

Ms. Cynthia Jepson
Box 254
Marine-on-St. Croix, MN 55047

Dear Ms. Jepson:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has supported beverage deposit legislation since 1973 and continues to do so at this time. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Board has annually renewed their resolution of support for deposit legislation since 1974, and we hope they will do so again.

Although detractors of such legislation are quick to point out that such proposed laws have been turned down in several states, we feel it is far more significant that citizens in states where deposit laws already exist are overwhelmingly in favor of retaining them. Certainly, if consumers in states like Oregon, Michigan, Maine, Iowa, and Vermont felt deposit laws were an intolerable burden, there would be action to rescind. (Michigan enacted their law by a voter initiative and referendum.) A recent report (December 11, 1980) by the Comptroller General of the United States, States Experience With Beverage Container Deposit Laws Shows Positive Benefits, details the Michigan and Maine experience and describes the benefits of reduced solid waste in landfills, lessened use of virgin materials, and energy conservation. No one denies that some cost is involved in the transition period, or that a limited number of jobs are lost (240 in Michigan, offset by more than 4,000 gained).

Deposit legislation has been at issue a number of times in as many years in Minnesota, and the issue is clouded and confused each time by the conflicting testimony and information presented by both sides in the argument. The League urges the Board to continue their support of deposit legislation at this time particularly because basic statistical information, of enough duration to be relevant, should be forthcoming from Michigan shortly. Also, Wisconsin is at present considering adoption of a 10¢ deposit law--a fact which would certainly enhance the adoption of such a law in Minnesota.

We urge the Board to reaffirm their position of support for a uniform deposit on all beverage containers.

Sincerely,

Harriette Burkhalter
President

Jeanne Crampton
Natural Resources Co-chair

B/C:M
Enclosure

Same to all PCA Boarders

GOOD NEWS FROM MICHIGAN

REPORTS FIND LITTER, SOLID WASTE GREATLY REDUCED; JOBS, RECYCLING AND PRICES UP

Two new studies on Michigan's first year of experience with deposit legislation come to one undeniable conclusion: the law is working and working well!

The recently released reports constitute the first definitive studies on the Michigan law. Both provide valuable ammunition to refute claims that the state is suffering as a result of the law which went into effect on December 3, 1978. Bottle bill proponents now have the long awaited proof that this type of legislation can and does work in a large industrialized state.

In 1978, the Michigan legislature created a joint committee to study the impact of the law chaired by Senator Stephen Monsma. That committee recently released their interim report called "*Michigan's Deposit Law: First Year.*" After outlining the basic differences between the beer and soft drink industries and how each operates within the state, the impacts of the law are analyzed in eight subject areas: public support, container mix, resources and solid waste, energy, employment, prices, costs and border problems.

"*The Michigan Bottle Bill: One Year After*" is the second good source of information, published by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs. It's a more concise report than the interim report, but draws most of the same conclusions. The one issue this study tackles that is not addressed by the committee is litter. Once again, the news is good.

The Michigan state Department of Transportation conducts annual surveys along the state's 9300 miles of highways. The 1979 survey showed beverage container litter down by 84% from the previous year and all types of litter have decreased by 41%. The report goes on to say that the 84% reduction in beverage container litter accounts for a little over one third of the total litter!

In a nutshell, the committee findings indicate that the bottle bill enjoys a great deal of public support, while adding jobs to Michigan's economy and reducing the wasteful use of natural resources through refilling and recycling containers. It is estimated that a 30% increase in the use of refillable bottles

has occurred over the course of the first year of implementation. Even more impressive is the finding that almost 100% of the cans in the state are being recycled. This translates into a savings of 2,000 tons of aluminum and steel every month. In the words of the committee report, "(these figures) speak eloquently to the success of the deposit law."

The energy and economic impacts proved to be somewhat more difficult to document and draw definitive conclusions. But the preliminary results look positive. As a result of the increased use of refillables, additional transportation is required in both the distribution and return channels, leading to more fuel consumption. "On the other hand," the report notes, "recycling aluminum conserves 95% of the energy required to produce new aluminum."

One of the most controversial aspects of the bottle bill's impact has been on the subject of prices. While the beverage industry continues to use the price increases as one of its primary arguments against deposit legislation, the law's supporters question the justification of those price increases. The Monsma committee found a nine percent increase in the price of beer and a six to eight percent increase in the soft drink prices, after subtracting the general inflation rate for the state.

There are several relevant factors unique to Michigan that cast new insight on the price issue. For instance, the Michigan Liquor Control Commission very tightly regulates the sale of beer and other alcoholic beverages. The regulations specifically prohibit advertising of beer prices by retailers, as well as quantity discounts between wholesalers and retailers. One of the strongest recommendations to emerge from "*Michigan's Deposit Law: First Year*" is that these prohibitions be eliminated in order to foster more price competition.

Additionally, the committee conducted hearings in an area bordering Indiana, and was "most disturbed" by testimony that beer was being retailed in Indiana at a lower price than what Michigan wholesalers were being charged for the same product!

No one disputes the fact that the deposit law has imposed additional costs on the industry. The report reminds us, however, that it has also resulted in certain cost reductions. Most breweries, for example, originate the deposits on refillable bottles. When that bottle is not returned for redemption, the brewery pockets the nickel or dime. Likewise, the distributors and soft drink bottlers originate the deposit on non-refillable bottles and cans, and they too stand to gain from unredeemed deposits. The report notes, in addition, that the beverage industry can invest the money gained from imposing the deposit for the period of time the can or bottle is in use by the retailer and the consumer.

There are additional cost reductions to the industry which can offset their cost increases which the report discusses in detail.

The report concludes that the retailers are the one link in the marketing chain who have undergone the greatest number of changes without economic benefits. Their handling costs have gone up with the need to separate containers, as have the requirements for additional storage space. (There is no "handling charge rebate system" under the Michigan law.)

The Michigan deposit law has resulted in numerous changes within the state and a year of implementation is not a great deal of time to come to definitive conclusions. But these reports offer vital new evidence to rebut the old arguments that the law has been the source of numerous headaches to Michigan consumers as well as the beverage industry in the state, with very few benefits. Both Senator Monsma's committee and MUCC are to be applauded for their efforts to uncover the facts of Michigan's bottle bill.

For copies of the Monsma report, write: Special Committee to Study the Impact of Michigan's Deposit Law, Michigan State Senate, Lansing, MI 48909.

For copies of "*The Michigan Bottle Bill: One Year After*" write: Michigan United Conservation Clubs, P.O. Box 30235, Lansing, MI 48909.

FEDERAL STUDIES NOW AVAILABLE: The Resource Conservation Committee (RCC), a cabinet-level, inter-agency committee charged with making recommendations to the President and Congress on resource conservation measures has issued its report: *Choices for Conservation*, No. SW 799, Office of Solid Waste Programs, EPA, Washington, D.C. 20460. The Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) submitted to the Congress in July of 1979 a report on the feasibility of various approaches to resource recovery, recycling and reuse, including an excellent and concise chapter on beverage container deposit legislation. *Materials and Energy from Municipal Solid Waste*, Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Govt Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 20402. Stock No.: 052-003-00692-8.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MINNESOTA**

PHONE (612) 224-5445

555 WABASHA • ST PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

action

BEVERAGE CONTAINER LEGISLATION

To: Local League Presidents and/or Action Chairs
LWVs of Buffalo-Monticello

Brooklyn Park
Brooklyn Center
Freeborn County
East Faribault County
Grand Rapids
Duluth

From: Harriette Burkhalter, President; Joyce Lake, Action Chair; Jeanne Crampton,
Natural Resources Chair, LWVMN

Re: Senate File 382

Date: March 18, 1981

TIME FOR ACTION - ACT BY MARCH 26TH!

Solid Waste: LWVMN Position: Support of measures to discourage the use of non-returnable beverage containers.

BACKGROUND: LWVMN has supported deposit legislation since 1973--with no success. Two bills concerning deposits (companion bills), H.F. 748 (Dean, Munger) and S.F. 382 (Luther, Ulland, Merriam, Willet, Dahl), have been introduced in the 1981 session. H.F. 748 and S.F. 382 would have imposed a deposit of 3¢ on all beverage containers of glass, metal, or plastic. Counties would have been mandated to establish recycling centers, and county auditors would have been responsible for numerous reports concerning containers sold and deposits refunded. LWVMN testified on S.F. 382 in subcommittee (Environmental Protection/Agriculture and Natural Resources - Senate) on March 3. We affirmed our support for deposit legislation but expressed our reservations about the effectiveness of a 3¢ deposit (2¢ returned to consumer) and the burdensome detail imposed on county auditors. Too low a deposit can cause such a law to fail before it ever gets off the ground. Industry testimony was uniformly negative.

In the subcommittee meeting on March 17, Sen. Charles Davis (D., Dist. 18) offered an amendment ("Strike everything after the enacting clause,"--in reality a new bill) to S.F. 382, with author Luther's blessing and help. The new S.F. 382 was further amended by Senator Luther and now would function as follows (greatly simplified explanation):

"Beverage containers" would mean any glass, metal, or plastic bottle, can, jar, or carton that contained milk, beer, soft drinks, and non-carbonated drinks, including spring water, juices, etc. Essentially industry would be told that they could use any form of container as long as it could be reused or its material could be recycled. Mandatory percentage requirements for the reusing or recycling of glass, metal, and plastic containers would be established in the body of the law. Increasing percentage goals would be set for each type of container, starting in 1981. (For instance, metal cans sold in 1981 might require a return of at least 40%; in 1983, at least 80%; and in 1985, at least 90%). If the percentage goals were not met, either a financial penalty would be imposed, or the container in question would be banned (depending on which concept is eventually adopted). How a more-or-less accurate (and verifiable) count of containers

is to be maintained is somewhat in question. One version makes distributors responsible for maintaining those records. The entire process would be overseen and enforced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. This approach would place the responsibility for reuse and recycling of containers just where industry has insisted it should be--with themselves. However, industry representatives were more or less speechless when this concept was introduced.

S.F. 382 now meets in principle the criteria of the LWVMN position on beverage containers, and we favor supporting it. Since we have to face political reality--that a deposit law will be bitterly resisted by industry--we urge that this new idea be given a try. If the legislation should fail to bring about the desired result (a high percentage of container return), the failure will rest with the industry and not with a state-mandated deposit law that establishes a deposit level (3¢) that is too low to be effective. (In states that have deposit legislation, it has been shown that deposits below 10¢ do not accomplish the goal of getting containers back to be recycled.)

H.F. 748 will be heard in the House Environmental and Natural Resources Committee in two weeks, according to author Rep. William Dean (IR, Mpls.). He has also informed us that his bill will be completely amended, although the 3¢ deposit portion will remain.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: CONTACT YOUR SENATOR BEFORE MARCH 26TH. Please discuss with him the possibility that this new approach may finally be the compromise everyone has sought for so long on this issue. It gives industry the ability to generate container returns in any manner they wish but also promises the state that a certain definite amount will be recycled or reused and not littering roadsides or clogging landfills.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS AND POSITION ON S.F. 382 AS AMENDED

Senator William Luther, Chairman - 203 Capitol - 296-8869 (supports)

Senator Charles Davis, Author of Amendment but now undecided - 306 Capitol - 296-2302

Senator Bob Lessard - 328 Capitol - 296-4136 (against)

Senator James Ulland - 143 State Office Building - 296-4314 (supports)

Senator Tim Penny - 121 Capitol - 296-4165 (supports)

ATTEND THE HEARING ON MARCH 26TH. The Environmental Protection Subcommittee of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee will meet at the Capitol (call 296-8869 for time and location) to discuss further S.F. 382 as amended. Please try to attend.

WATCH THE CAPITOL LETTER FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS!



File

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

Testimony Presented to the
Environmental Protection Subcommittee
of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Senate Committee
on Senate File 382
Tuesday, March 3, 1981

by
Jeanne Crampton, Natural Resources Co-chair
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has supported legislation that would establish a deposit-return cycle for beverage containers for a number of years. Such efforts were originally labeled (by their detractors, generally) "ban the can," and more recently, "mandatory deposit." We hope by now that those two particular myths may be laid to rest: Deposit legislation does not "ban the can" (nor the glass or plastic bottle). Deposit legislation does not mandate consumer choices. What it does do is put the cost of container disposal on the individual who purchases a beverage and tosses the container, instead of returning it for a refund. It shifts the cost of solid waste disposal and littering from the taxpayer to the user.

The League is very interested in the intent and scope of SF 382, and generally supportive of the concept. However, we do have some serious reservations about the bill in its present form. We feel strongly that a 3¢ deposit is not enough to insure the effectiveness of such a law. We recognize the feeling that any deposit legislation would be a step forward, and are tempted to rely on that thinking. The question is, though, might not this strategy backfire somewhere down the line? If the legislation failed to produce results, might not opponents of the concept then be able to point a finger and say, "Well, it was tried and was a failure." Reports from Iowa, which has a 5¢ deposit law, indicate it is not working well, mainly because the financial incentive is lacking. On the other hand, the Michigan (10¢) law appears to be working well. According to a new Federal Publication, "States' Experience With Beverage Container Deposit Laws Shows Positive Benefits," (Report by the Comptroller General of the U.S., December 11, 1980), return rates on beverage containers in Michigan have been upward of 90%.

One of our other concerns would be with the amount of paper work that appears to be generated for the counties to cope with. (Reports to the County Auditor, and the responsibility for refunds, etc.) Perhaps this is something that could be easily added to the county structure---but we don't think it should just be assumed.

One of the most positive effects of a deposit law is the reduction in solid waste. Several cities in Michigan have reported solid waste reductions of 6 percent, overall by volume, since implementation. (If there had not been an increase in other litter between 1977 and 1979, the drop in beverage container litter and litter related to the deposit would have reduced total litter by 21.4 percent.) Nearly 100 percent of the one-way beverage bottles and cans are being recycled. Both Alcoa and Reynolds have established recycling centers in Michigan since the advent of the deposit law. Their recycling operations supply the beer distributor free of charge with a machine that automatically crushes cans and loads the metal into 40-foot trailers, which are also supplied by the recycling company. One-way glass bottles are broken or crushed by beer distributors and sold to Owens-Illinois for about \$32 per ton. (There is a plant in southern Michigan.) Plastic bottles are ground into small pieces by the bottlers and sold as scrap to one of several companies for 2 to 5 cents per pound or \$40 to \$100 per ton. Benefits other than reduction of solid waste were an increase in employment (4,648 jobs, as to approximately 240 lost) and an approximate reduction of 33% in total energy use.

On February 25 of this year, Wisconsin Senator Thomas Harnisch (D-Neillsville) plus others introduced a 10¢ deposit bill on pop and beer containers sold in Wisconsin. He was quoted in the Minneapolis Tribune (2/26/81) as saying, "... the bill will pass because it, unlike one that died in committee two years ago, puts the profit motive in the recycling system." The League is interested in seeing exactly what the ramifications of such a bill would be, since Minnesota and Wisconsin share a long border, and it would certainly be of benefit to each state if they adopted similar legislation, particularly as to size of deposit. As soon as we have more details, we will see to it that the committee is informed.

Anxious as we are to see that deposit legislation is passed in the State of Minnesota, we would rather wait to see a comprehensive law, with an adequate deposit (10¢ or higher) than to act now and discover later that we are saddled with failure.

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Environmental Protection Subcommittee
of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Senate Committee
on Senate File 382
Tuesday, March 3, 1981
by
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Anxious as we are to see that deposit legislation is passed in the State of Minnesota, we would rather wait to see a comprehensive law, with an adequate deposit (10¢ or higher) than to act now and discover later that we are saddled with failure.

Testimony
before The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Board
by
Virginia Reiner, Lobbyist
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
April 24, 1979

I am Virginia Reiner speaking for the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

In 1973, after two years of study on the solid waste problem, League members agreed that the best approach was to reduce the nonessential part of the waste stream, recover its nonreducible portion and ensure safe disposal of the remainder. We are committed to action to achieve these goals, and I'm here today to express our concern for the current state of uncertainty and inaction with respect to the proposed Minnesota Hazardous Waste Rules. Such indecision is not beneficial either to the citizens and the environment which the rules protect or to the industry which the rules regulate.

The State Planning Agency Report prepared for the Joint Legislative Committee on Solid and Hazardous Waste gives four reasons for immediately promulgating these rules. We concur with these reasons, and I would like to briefly review them with you.

- 1) The state, industry and the public have devoted much time and resources to the rules. Rehearings would be repetitious and delaying.
- 2) The rules will generate information which is crucial to continued hazardous waste management planning.
- 3) Compliance with management rules will protect the environment.
- 4) Responsible hazardous waste managers are at a competitive disadvantage in the absence of the rules.

In addition to the above reasons, I would also like to add the following considerations.

- 1) The fees generated by the rules will provide for financing the hazardous waste management and enforcement program by the Agency.

- 2) During the hearings on the demonstration EPA chemical landfill site, many citizens expressed opposition to the grant on the basis that there did not exist a statewide hazardous waste regulatory program in place. We need such secure disposal sites in this state and the promulgation of the hazardous waste regulations may help provide assurance to diminish citizen concerns.
- 3) EPA has designated to the states prime responsibility for the management of hazardous waste disposal. Last December conferees at the International Conference on Hazardous Materials Management agreed that the problems are too serious to wait for the slow and tedious process of adequate federal registration and urged the states to take the initiative in solving them. Cooperation among states was encouraged. The definitive promulgation of the hazardous waste regulations would provide a working framework to begin such cooperative coordination.

To summarize:

We have a well-scrutinized set of Hazardous Waste Rules which have been developed over the last five years with exhaustive input. We have the production of 128,000 tons of hazardous waste per year in Minnesota, and we have documented problems with irresponsible and unsafe disposal of hazardous waste here. The promulgation of the Hazardous Waste Rules is the beginning of a solution to these problems, and we urge the Board to act to see that these regulations are quickly implemented.

Testimony
before Joint Legislative Committee on Solid and Hazardous Waste
by
Virginia Reiner, Lobbyist
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
April 3, 1979

I am Virginia Reiner speaking for the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. We'd first like to commend the State Planning Agency and their consultants for producing a clear, thorough and very readable report.

Since 1973, League members have supported policies to reduce the non-essential part of the waste stream, recover its nonreducible portion and ensure safe disposal of the rest.

Based on this position and recognizing the responsibility of the state to protect the general health and safety of its citizens and the general good, we'd like to make the following observations on the recommendations in the report.

We endorse the recommendation that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Hazardous Waste Regulations be immediately promulgated for the reasons stated in this report. The present state of uncertainty and inaction is not beneficial to either the citizenry or industry.

However, League cannot support the recommended exemption from regulatory requirements for hazardous waste generators that produce 100 kilograms or less/month. It should be noted that although the Environmental Protection Agency proposed that cut-off in the federal guidelines, it did so with reservations, stating that "some hazardous waste...if improperly disposed of in quantities smaller than 100 kilograms can present a significant threat to public health and the environment." While the 100-kilogram threshold is an easily measured regulatory limitation, environmentally the degree of hazard associated with a waste is more often related to concentration rather than volume.

We cannot reconcile the cradle to grave management philosophy of all hazardous waste as mandated by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Section 3002) with the proposed 100-kilogram exemption. To ease the burden of regulation for small generators, less detailed reporting and minimal record keeping should be required of them.

In keeping with the policy of the League of Women Voters to promote recycling and reuse, we endorse the proposals to allocate funds from the Title Transfer Fee to MPCA to encourage waste oil recycling and to establish a container tax to promote reuse and disposal of pesticide containers. Promotion of waste reduction and recycling efforts should be encouraged in the development of the hazardous waste management program. The above suggestions are local beginnings.

League also recognizes that safe disposal necessitates off-site land containment facilities in Minnesota. Priority must be given to planning and siting such facilities to ensure environmental protection and public safety. We also recognize that such planning for facilities necessitates public education so that decisions can be based on accurate facts and real needs. The five citizen demands cited in the report (page 63) are reasonable and legitimate, and both government and industry have an obligation to respect them.

We therefore strongly urge that the Legislature establish and fund a program to develop citizen participation guidelines for solid and hazardous waste planning and siting and authorize a statewide hazardous waste education program.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota, with a network of local Leagues throughout the state and members involved in local, regional and state government monitoring, has a proven reputation for successful citizen education and input. We are willing to assist in waste information dissemination and education in such a program to promote effective, informed public involvement.

Our concern for public participation also leads us to suggest that the preparation of criteria development, industry coordination, education, etc., is best handled under one agency, MPCA. Our opinion is based on the following considerations: 1) MPCA is currently identified with hazardous waste management in the public's mind and in the media due to the proposed rules; 2) dividing the authority for hazardous waste management among more than one agency could prove to be very frustrating to a citizen who was looking for the person or office responsible for a particular problem; 3) MPCA has an existing information office that could be expanded to simplify coordination problems.

In initiating a comprehensive new program involving an eclectic mixture of waste managers, varied generators, federal, state, regional and local governments and agencies and the general public, the League of Women Voters expects that everything is not going to succeed as anticipated. Changes and revisions are assured as program implementation provides more knowledge and technology advances. But the problems are too serious and the consequences too formidable to forestall action.

TIME FOR ACTION
DEPOSITS ON BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

TO: LOCAL LEAGUE PRESIDENTS
FROM: Sally Foley, Lobbyist
RE: Deposits on beverage containers
DATE: March 7, 1979

POSITION: Support for mandatory deposits on beverage containers.

BACKGROUND: Since 1973 when LWV completed a study on solid waste, we have supported legislation requiring mandatory deposits on beverage containers as a means to reduce the generation of solid waste.

Many state and federal studies on the impacts of deposit legislation have been published which strongly support our position and show that it would:

- reduce litter
- reduce the generation of solid waste
- conserve natural resources
- save energy
- save consumers money
- create new jobs

Seven states now have similar legislation: Oregon, Vermont, Michigan, Maine, Connecticut, Delaware, and Iowa.

A public opinion poll taken at the Minnesota State Fair last summer by the Minnesota House of Representatives shows 73% favoring deposit legislation. The poll results were published in the Aug.-Oct. 1978 issue of "INTERIM" which is a publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

STATUS OF BILL: HF 189 (Dean, Vanasek, Fjoslien, Rothernberg, Long) requires a minimum 10¢ refundable deposit on all beer and soft drink beverage containers sold in Minnesota. Hearings on HF 189 were held on March 6 and 8 in the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee. A final committee vote is expected on March 15. The following representatives serve on the House Committee.

Battaglia	Fjoslien (AUTHOR)	Munger - CHAIR	Rose
Begich	Jacobs	Nelsen, M.	Sherwood
Carlson, D.	Kostohryz	Patton	Stadum
Dean (AUTHOR)	Lehto	Nysether	Stowell
Den Ouden	Levi	Peterson	Vanasek (AUTHOR)
Ellingson	Long (AUTHOR)	Prahl	Weaver

WHAT TO DO: The League and individual members should contact their representatives who serve on the committee via letters, cards, or phone calls before March 15 (when a committee vote is likely) urging support for HF 189.

File

Testimony
by Joyce Lake, Lobbyist
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
on H.F. 189
for
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
March 6, 1979

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Joyce Lake speaking for the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. Since 1973 when the League completed a study on solid waste, we have supported legislation requiring mandatory deposits on beverage containers as a means to reduce the generation of solid waste.

Since 1973 many state and federal studies on the impacts of deposit legislation have been published. These studies strongly support our position and show that a returnable beverage container system would:

- reduce litter
- reduce the generation of solid waste
- reduce raw materials consumption
- save energy
- save consumers money AND
- result in a net job increase.

The League of Women Voters was here supporting deposit legislation in 1974, 1975, '76, '77, '78 and here we are again in 1979. As in many other areas the League of Women Voters is persistent. We strongly recommend the passage of H.F. 189 this year.

Thank you.

DEPOSITS ON BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

TO: Mahtomedi Area LWV
Bloomington LWV

FROM: Sally Foley, Lobbyist

RE: Deposits on beverage containers

DATE: February 26, 1979

POSITION: Support for mandatory deposits on beverage containers.

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STATUS OF BILL: H.F. 189 (Rep. Bill Dean) requires a minimum 10¢ deposit on all beer and soft drink beverage containers sold in Minnesota. Hearings on H.F. 189 are scheduled for March 6 and 8 in the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. Your representatives (Connie Levi and Bill Peterson) serve on the committee and are crucial votes for passage of H.F. 189.

WHAT TO DO: The League and individual members should contact their representative via letters, cards or phone calls before March 8 urging support for H.F. 189.

(Please send copy of your letters to the state office.)



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MINNESOTA**

PHONE (612) 224-5445
555 WABASHA • ST PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

action

DEPOSITS ON BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

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Bloomington LWV

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WHAT TO DO: The League and individual members should contact their representative via letters, cards or phone calls before March 8 urging support for H.F. 189.

(Please send copy of your letters to the state office.)

To: Members of the Minnesota Senate
From: Helene Borg, President, League of Women Voters of Minnesota
Re: SF 1
Date: February 28, 1978

Since 1973 the League of Women Voters of Minnesota has been working to pass legislation which would require a refundable deposit on all beer and soft drink beverage containers sold in Minnesota. We strongly support SF 1.

All studies - state and federal - on the employment impact of ~~deposit legis-~~lation have shown that there would be a net increase of jobs.

- 2/3 of the new jobs would be high-pay union scale jobs in breweries, soft drink bottling plants and Teamster jobs in distribution.
- 1/3 of the new jobs would be low-pay minimum wage jobs in retailing.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota opposes SF 1904 (Senator Borden's compromise bill) because it would increase taxes and government spending while doing little to save energy and other natural resources.

On February 9, 1978, the Iowa Senate passed a deposit bill on a 39-11 vote. In Minnesota public opinion polls have consistently shown that 75-80% of our citizens favor deposit legislation. We urge you to vote "yes" on SF 1.

TESTIMONY
by
LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of MN.
(Sally Foley)
on S.F.1904
before
the SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION S.C.
Feb.23, 1978

Members of the committee my name is SALLY FOLEY
speaking for the League of Women Voters of Mn. The League
does not support S.F.1904. We have reviewed the bill and
believe that it is poor legislation which will increase taxes
and government spending while doing little to save energy or
natural resources. Many provision are weak and ineffectual.

Sen. Borden says that S.F.1904 will insure consumers a
choice in the market-place. - that it will require stores which
sell in throwaways to offer those items in returnable containers
as well. However, as Sec.1 sub.3 of the bill reads, a retailer
could comply with the law by offering for sale, just one
obscure brand in returnable containers while continuing to sell
all other brands in throwaways.

Sec.1 sub.4 will require retailers to sell beer in return-
ables in less than case lots if they sell beer in throwaways
in less than case lots. But what is a case? "Case" is not
defined in this bill - and again the retailer can comply by
offering just one obscure brand of beer in a 6 pak while con-
tinuing to sell all other brands in throwaways.

Sec.2 on page 3 requires the PCA to establish regional
recycling centers. As described in this bill, these centers
would actually be regional collection centers which would

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buy and sell bottles, cans, and paper. The League of Women Voters wholeheartedly supports recycling efforts. That is one of the primary reasons why we support deposit legislation - to get cans returned for recycling. However, we feel that - where possible - private industry should construct and operate recycling centers.⁽¹⁾

In testimony last summer before the Senate Employment Impacts sub-committee,² Sandra Gardebring said that in Vermont redemption centers have been established - all privately owned and operated - in response to their deposit law. She said that the entire Vermont system is administratively very clean and simple, requiring little state involvement.

Ms. Gardebring also said that in Arizona, nine financially self-supporting recycling centers have been established by the beverage industry. They accept aluminum, glass, steel and paper and paid out over 4 million dollars to recyclers in the past 4 years. To repeat - the League feels that the state should encourage private construction and operation of recycling facilities when possible.

Sec. 5 on page 5 repeals the present law against littering and replaces it with a law which is essentially the same - word for word - as the repealed law. The logic of this escapes us. The Revisor's Office has enough paper work.

I have been told by a former Revisor that when a law is repealed, only to be replaced with a similar law, that all legislative history on which to base future court decisions is lost.

3

This re-arranging of Mn. statutes may also have the effect of reducing enforcement against littering. The present law - Mn. statute 169.42 - is now contained in the "Mn. Highway Traffic Regulation Act" which is distributed to all police trainees in basic training. If the present law is repealed and removed from the "Mn. Highway Traffic Regulation Act" and placed in a different chapter of Mn. statutes, police trainees may not become familiar with the law, resulting in less enforcement against littering.

Sec.6 requires cars and motorboats to carry litter bags. The penalty for failure to carry a litter bag is \$10 and \$5 of that fine must be forwarded to the state treasurer. (Sec.11 pg.7 line 11). ^{HOWEVER} Local governments may not be interested in enforcing this provision because of the high cost of court trials. And in the state of Washington the courts have held that the glove compartment of the car could be construed as a litter bag as well as ladies purses and similar containers. 3

Sec.7 requires private individuals - at their own expense - to provide litter receptacles if they own or operate a public place. Does this mean that every small businessman who owns a grocery store, hardware store, gas station or barber shop must now provide and empty litter receptacles?

The Washington State litter law also provides for the placement of litter receptacles. However, the Washington State Highway Dept. has had to remove all their litter receptacles which were placed in recreational parks and along the roads - with the exception of those receptacles placed in manned

4

recreational parks - because they were used as garbage dumps by local residents. 4

Small businessmen in Mn. May be less than happy if they must handle the garbage disposal of others.

Sec.8 says that the Dept. of Transportation shall develop an anti-litter symbol at a cost of less than \$1000. Do you really think the the taxpayers of Mn. want \$1000 of their hard earned money spent to design an anti-litter symbol?

And now we come to the Dept. of Transportation which will receive \$850,000 to do such neat things as distribute litter bags and educate the public on the evils of littering. Keep America Beautiful has been doing this for years with little sucess. Washington State has a similar litter control law. I received a letter from the LWV of Washington last week in which the writer commented on their litter control program - quote - "In fact, they spend a great deal of time putting out fancy brochures - lots of tax dollars with which to do it - and litter bags to show how good it is. However, my eyes tell me that there is still a lot of litter being thrown out." - unquote. (5)

In Mn. many programs are in need of more state money - schools, state hospitals, libraries and mass transit to name but a few. It is hard to believe that the people of Mn. would rather have \$850,000 of their tax dollars spent for litter bags and fancy brochures.

5

Next we have Sec.16 which will place a litter tax on a variety of items from hamburgers and snack foods to truck tires and auto mufflers. This tax will place a particular burden on college students who live on Big Macs - and Quarter Pounder People will soon be paying more for lunch.

This tax will also be a burden to many low-income people who survive on snack foods. The Mpls. Tribune ⁶ recently ran a story about an inner-city Red Owl store in Mpls. A check-out clerk said in the story - quote - "They come in at the end of the month with only \$3 to \$5 left - they tell you what they have left - and they buy junk food. You get so mad. It's very frustrating. Makes you wish you'd never learned anything about nutrition." - unquote.

While everyone is crying out for tax relief in Mn. - the business community, middle income families, retired people on fixed incomes - the Mn. Senate sits here deliberating a bill to further increase their tax burden.

Sec.25 on page 14 amends the present Mn. packaging law by changing just one word. Many of us believe that the packaging law - like Reserve Mining - will be tied up in litigation forevermore - and that changing the word "guidelines" to rules won't substantially alter the situation.

In conclusion, the Mpls.Star has written of Senator Borden's "compromise" - quote - "It does not deserve serious consideration." - unquote. ⁽⁷⁾ We agree. The citizens of Mn. don't want higher taxes. We don't want more state bureaucracy to

6

administer litter programs and we don't want S.F.1904. Public opinion polls have consistently shown that 75 to 80% of Minnesotans want deposit legislation. We urge you to vote "no" on S.F.1904 and vote "yes" on deposit legislation.

Thank you.

IOWA Senate passed Feb. 9 by 39-1 vote

Bibliography

1. "Impact on Issues - A Leader's Guide to National Program", LWVUS, 1977 p.20
2. Testimony by Sandra Gardebring, Executive Director of the MPCA, before the Employment Impacts S.C. of the Senate Employment Committee, Sept.6, 1977
3. Captain Randall Jordan, Washington State Patrol, Mar.7, 1975. Re-affirmed in a letter from Major Randall Jordan, Feb.14, 1978
4. Don Ernst, District Engineer, Washington State Highway Dept. Mar.7, 1975. Re-affirmed in a letter from Major Randall, Jordan, Wash. State Patrol, Feb.14, 1978
5. Letter from Carla Hansmann, Natural Resources Chairperson, LWV of Washington, Feb.12, 1978
6. Mpls. Tribune, Feb.5, 1978
7. Mpls. Star Dec.13, 1977



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

January 12, 1978

Senator Nicholas D. Coleman
208 Capitol
St. Paul, Mn. 55155

Dear Senator Coleman:

I watched you on T.V. last night - on "Mn. Issues" with Arthur Naftalin. Of particular interest to me were your comments on Ban-the-Can.

Opponents are now willing to concede that there will be a net increase of jobs with passage of deposit legislation. Every federal and state study on the employment impacts of deposit legislation confirm that fact.

However, opponents continue to spread the myth that those new jobs would be undesirable, low-paid, minimum wage jobs. On "Mn. Issues" you appeared to believe that false argument. It is simply not true!

Information presented by Senate Research to the Senate S.C. on Employment Impacts on Sept. 6, 1977 confirmed the following.

2/3 of the new jobs would be high-paying union jobs in:
Malt Beverage Distribution
Soft Drink Distribution
Beverage Production and Filling

1/3 of the new jobs would be low-paying jobs in retailing.

The League of Women Voters strongly supports mandatory deposits on beverage containers. We support the bill introduced last year by Senator Luther (S.F.1). The League urges you, as Senate Majority Leader, to take a leadership role on this issue to assure passage of S.F.1 this year.

Sincerely,

Sally Foley

Sally Foley - Lobbyist, LWV of Mn.

Provisions of
Senator Winston Borden's
"Compromise" draft-bill
on
Mandatory Deposit Legislation
and
Comments by LWV of Mn.

1.

\$150 annual fee - to sell beer or soft drinks in non-returnable containers for on-site consumption. (*Paid by retailer*)

2.

Retailer must sell beer and soft drinks in refillable containers if he sells beer and soft drinks in cans and one-way bottles.

LWV COMMENT - the way this section of the bill reads, a retailer can comply by offering just one obscure brand of beer or soft drinks in returnable bottles, while continuing to sell all other brands of beer and soft drinks in cans and one-way bottles.

3.

BEER IN LESS THAN CASE LOTS - No retailer shall sell or offer for sale beer in non-refillable containers in less than case lots unless the retailer shall also sell beer in refillable containers in less than case lots.

LWV COMMENT - "Case" is not defined. Presumably a retailer could comply by offering one brand of beer only in refillables. All other brands could then continue to be sold in 6 or 8 paks of cans and one-way bottles.

4.

DISPLAY REFUND - Retailer must display refund value of empty beverage container and the retail price excluding the refund.

LWV COMMENT - Good!

5.

VENDING MACHINES - omitted

LWV COMMENT - Why?

6.

REGIONAL RECYCLING CENTERS - MPCA shall establish regional solid waste recycling centers.

LWV COMMENT - As described in the draft-bill these are collection centers and would not actually do recycling.

Variations of this concept are operating in Vermont and Arizona. In Vermont redemption centers have been established all privately owned and operated in response to their deposit law. The entire system is administratively very clean and simple and requires very little state involvement.

Another type of intermediate procession center has also been established in Arizona. There, nine Financially self-sustaining recycling centers have been established by the beverage industry. In addition to aluminum, the Arizona centers also accept glass, steel and paper and paid out over \$4,000,000 to recyclers in the past 4 years. (Source: MPCA testimony before the Employment Impacts S.C. of Senate Employment Committee, Sept. 6, 1977)

7.

PROHIBITS LITTERING

LWV COMMENT - this section is essentially the same as the present Mn. law against littering, Mn. statute 169.42.

8.

LITTER RECEPTACLES - requires persons operating public places to obtain and place receptacles (at his own expense) on the premises.

LWV COMMENT - At this point in the bill we see emerging the "Washington State Model Litter Law" which has been used by opponents of deposit legislation to defeat its passage throughout the country.

Sec. 70.93.090 of the Washington law requires the placement of litter receptacles. Washington had problems when the receptacles were used as garbage dumps by local residents. The Washington Highway Dept. had to remove them at one time for this reason. (Source: telephone call to Don Ernst, District Engineer, Washington State Hiway Dept. March 7, 1975)

9.

LITTER BAGS - required in cars and licensed watercraft.

LWV COMMENT - Here we have another section of the Washington State Model Litter Law (Sec. 70.93.100) which requires a litter bag in every car. The courts have held that the car itself could be construed as a litter bag as well as ladies' purses and similar containers. The Washington State Patrol has determined that this provision is unenforceable and has issued written instructions to its members not to enforce it. (Source: telephone call to Captain Randall Jordan, Wash. State Highway Patrol, Mar. 7, 1975).

10.

PENALTY- for failure to provide litter receptacles, Max. fine \$100.

PENALTY- for failure to have a litter bag, max. fine, \$10.

LWV COMMENT- local governments must forward one-half of any amount collected to the state treasurer. Communities may not be interested in enforcing these provisions because of the high cost of trials.

11.

LITTER CONTROL PROGRAMS; PUBLIC EDUCATION concerning LITTER
The DOT will coordinate programs.

12.

CREATION OF 5 NEW POSITIONS - by the Commissioner of Transportation to administer the litter control program.

LWV COMMENT - These 5 new positions would be: Two deputy commissioners, an assistant commissioner and secretary level positions. This would be a plum for the DOT and it will be interesting to see whether the DOT will lobby for the bill.

Salaries for Deputy and assistant commissioners would probably range upward of \$25,000. Do the tax payers of Mn. really need to create more bureaucracy to administer the litter programs?

13.

LITTER TAX - on cigarettes and tobacco products, take-out and fast foods, candy, gum, other confections, snacks, nuts chips, plastic, paper and fiber containers, auto and truck tires, mufflers, toiletries, non-drugstore sundry items, pet food, flexible packaging, soft drinks, fruit drinks, alcoholic beverages, newspapers, magazines, glass containers, metal containers, container drowns and closures.

LWV COMMENT - this litter tax is the heart of the Washington State Litter Law. Naturally the cost is passed on to consumers. How do you define "snack"? Campbell Soups has a radio commercial in which they refer to their soups as a "snack". *Burden to low income people.*

A litter tax does not:

1. save energy
2. reduce the generation of solid waste
3. save consumer dollars
4. or reduce the generation of litter

A litter tax does:

1. INCREASE TAXES and cost to consumers

In other words, it's all right to litter if you pay for it!

14.

EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF - provides for additional employment of administrative and clerical staff.

LWV COMMENT - still more bureaucracy, at taxpayers expense, to oversee litter programs.

15.

LITTER SURVEY - to determine the composition of roadside litter in metro, rural and recreational areas by DOT by Nov. 30, 1978.

16.

STATE AID GRANTS - to regions, cities and institutions for:

1. feasibility studies of resource recovery.
2. construction of resource recovery systems.
3. programs to encourage public education on solid waste.
4. regional solid waste comprehensive plan.

to be made by PCA within the limit of appropriation (\$500,000).

LWV COMMENT - this may have merit. Should be studied further

17.

HAZARDOUS WASTE- amends Mn. statutes 1976, section 462.39.

LWV COMMENT - no comment. *doesn't deal w/ Hazardous*

18.

NEW PACKAGING - amends Mn. statutes 1976, Section 116.06, subd. 3.

LWV COMMENT - no comment

19.

APPROPRIATION - MONEY!!!!

\$850,000 to DOT to administrate litter control programs and public education.

\$500,000 to PCA to establish and operate regional recycling centers.

Closing Remarks

The League of Women Voters has been working for passage of mandatory deposits on beverage containers since 1973 - in Minnesota and throughout the country.

It is my opinion that if this bill passes it will definitely kill any chance to pass deposit legislation in Mn. this year or in the future.

Sally Foley, lobbyist
LWV of Mn.
Jan. 18, 1978



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

December 19, 1977

The Honorable Winston W. Borden
208 Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Borden:

Since 1973 the League of Women Voters has been actively working throughout the country for legislation which would require a refundable deposit on all beer and soft drink beverage containers.

It is our understanding that the compromise proposal which you announced on November 30th is now at the Revisor's Office and will not be available in bill form for several weeks. We do not wish to comment on your proposal without the specifics of a bill before us to study.

We commend your long record of support for deposit legislation in Minnesota, and we wish to inform you that the League of Women Voters of Minnesota will continue to work for deposit legislation in the future.

Sincerely,

Helene Borg, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

B:M



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

MEMO

TO: Poppleton, Lake, Foley, Berkwitz, Borg,

✓ Lucas

FROM: Betty Ann

SUBJECT: Attached

DATE: December 8, 1977

This morning Senator Borden's office called Pat to tell us he is holding a meeting Monday morning, 8:00 a.m., Holiday Inn, with environmental groups -- to discuss the attached statement. He said he would expect Sally or Mary to attend.

I talked with Sally on the phone, and she said she and Mary had discussed his plan -- since it is not yet in bill form and probably won't be before Christmas, it is their feeling we should continue the stand we've taken.

DEC 8 1977

WINSTON W. BORDEN

Assistant Majority Whip
Senator 13th District
Room 208
State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
(612) 296-2607

KEL JOHNSON

Administrative Assistant

Senate

State of Minnesota

December 7, 1977

Sally Foley
League of Women Voters
555 Wabasha St.
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Sally:

As you know I have been chief author of the ~~returnable container~~ bill five times during the last six legislative sessions. In the 1977 Legislative Session I co-authored the bill with Senator Luther, but it was defeated as it had been in past sessions.


On November 30th of this year I made a statement to the Subcommittee on Employment (a copy is enclosed) with reference to a compromise I have been working on the last few months. At present the bill is in the Revisor's office being prepared. I send you a copy of my statement to inform you of what the bill will look like in its final form. I would like your help in refining and making it as acceptable as possible to environmental groups supporting a returnable container bill.

As I stated above I have worked on this subject since being elected to the State Legislature in 1970. I have probably spent more time on the returnable container issue than I have spent on any other issue. Because of my interest in this subject and also the environment and solid waste areas, I do want a bill that can pass. I feel I have spent as much time as anyone in the Legislature on this frustrating issue, and I feel it is time we make some progress.

After you have had a chance to review my statement and discuss it with your group, I would appreciate sitting down with you and other environmental groups to discuss this compromise in an effort to produce something that is acceptable to all.

I want to thank you for your help in the past.

Sincerely,


Winston W. Borden

WWB:lsb
Encl.

STATEMENT OF WINSTON W. BORDEN, ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER
NOVEMBER 30, 1977, BEFORE THE EMPLOYMENT IMPACT COMMITTEE

For five of the last six years I have been the chief Senate author of the Returnable Container Bill. During that time we in the legislature, along with citizens across the state, have spent hundreds of thousands of hours debating the merits of the bill. But no bill has passed.

For the last six months I have been working to finally resolve the returnable container issue through a compromise bill that will conserve energy, preserve natural resources, reduce litter, cut consumer costs, and preserve and create jobs. Most importantly, this effort is designed to gain enough broad based support to enact the bill into law.

The proposal has been sent to the Revisor of Statutes for drafting. I expect to be able to introduce it shortly.

The members of this committee have worked long and diligently on the issue. My purpose today is to outline the essential elements of the new bill to the committee and to say to the public that we are no longer going to simply talk about the problem. We are going to begin to resolve it.

Let me state at the outset that the bill will not please everyone. It will protect our environment as well or better than the Returnable Container Bill and it will do so without dislocating jobs. It is designed to achieve early passage and provide an immediate attack on the complex issues of litter and recycling.

The six major components of the bill are designed:

First, to insure consumer choice. Some consumers want to purchase beverages in returnable containers, but cannot always find them. The bill will require stores which sell in throw-aways to offer those items in returnable containers as well.

Second, the bill is designed to promote the use of returnable containers for on-premises consumption. Stores must use returnable containers for on-site consumption unless they purchase a special license to sell throw-away containers. The license fee will be high enough to actively discourage the use of throwaways.

Third, I am considering tax alternatives to encourage consumers to purchase items in returnables, such as exempting beer sold in returnables from the sales tax now imposed.

Fourth, the bill will establish regional centers for the recycling of glass, aluminum, and steel containers as well as all paper products, in each of the state's 13 economic development regions. It establishes a floor price for those items to reimburse the persons who bring them to the centers. The state will bear the cost of collecting the items from the centers and transporting them to the resource recovery unit. Transportation costs will no longer be a block to recycling.

Fifth, the bill sets up a comprehensive litter control and reduction program. The bill imposes a broad based single tier litter assessment at the manufacturing or wholesale level to fund these activities. Staff work on budget and revenue estimates is in process.

Sixth, the bill seeks to expedite the establishment of the total resource recovery system in Minnesota by separating the total solid waste problem from the immediate concerns of hazardous waste and proceeding to establish a solid waste recovery system for non-hazardous waste.

I am proud of my public record on behalf of the environment of our state. I carried the fight for the Returnable Container Bill for five years and I have authored and passed the Minnesota Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Minnesota Environmental Education Act, and the Critical Areas Act. In that process I've learned one thing. Simply stated, to protect the environment we not only need to propose good legislation, we need to pass it.

Americans are the worlds greatest consumers. Much of what we use once we throw away. The bill seeks to reduce the use of throw away items. It will rid our roadsides, lakes and streams of litter.

It is a better bill than the returnable container bill because it seeks to address all aspects of litter and resource recovery.

To my friends in the labor movement who have opposed the returnable container bill, I would only say, here is a bill that will preserve existing jobs and create new jobs. It deserves labor support.

To industry representatives who have opposed returnable container legislation, I would say here is a chance to support a bill which will not unduly disrupt your industry, but which will reduce litter, and conserve energy and natural resources.

I want to be particularly clear. I have worked hard to develop a better bill -- one that you can live with. I believe it can work. Unless we all, environmentalists, labor and industry come together this year to support this approach the public will be the loser. Our working families will continue to face job jeopardy and our environment will continue to deteriorate at an accelerating rate and we the elected leaders will have in the final analysis failed.

DEC 12 1977

PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT
by

Sally Foley
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

Dec. 7, 1977

Since 1973 the League of Women Voters has been working for legislation which would require a refundable deposit on all beer and soft drink beverage containers sold in Mn.

The League will continue to work for deposit legislation in the future.

Mary - this is the statement we made at the press conference called by CAT to respond to Senator Borden's "Compromise" proposal which he announced last week.

Sally



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

May 6, 1977

Re S.F. 1

The League of Women Voters supports S.F. 1 which requires a minimum deposit of 10¢ on all beer and soft drink beverage containers sold in Minnesota.

Returnable bottles save energy, reduce the generation of solid waste, conserve natural resources, and reduce litter.

For these reasons we urge you to vote "yes" on S.F. 1.

Sincerely,

Jerry Jenkins, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota



From:
PADILLA and SPEER, Inc.
224 Franklin Avenue West
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404
(612) 871-8900 David Speer

In New York: (212) 752-8338
In Chicago: (312) 332-7229

Date: March 2, 1977 MAR 4 1977

For: The Society of the Plastics
Industry, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OPPOSES MILK BOTTLE BAN

The following statement by Ms. Sally Foley, state lobbyist for the Minnesota League of Women Voters, was carried in the League's Coon Rapids-Anoka February Bulletin. It states the League's position on proposed legislation to prohibit nonreturnable plastic milk bottles in Minnesota. In the event that you missed this article, we are passing it along just as it appeared in the Bulletin:

ACTION: NONRETURNABLE PLASTIC MILK BOTTLES -- Sally Foley --

We goofed! Last Sept., the Minn. Pollution Control Agency (PCA) requested our support for a legislative ban on nonrefillable plastic milk bottles. We agreed, believing such support was compatible with solid waste consensus adopted by LWV in 1973 which "supports efforts to reduce the generation of solid waste." Under that position, we have lobbied for deposit legislation (ban-the-can).

In October, dairies proclaimed in full-page newspaper ads that the nonrefillable plastic milk bottle is environmentally superior to paperboard cartons. The dairies validated their claim by citing a report done for the EPA called the MRI report. We were finally able to obtain the MRI report through the national LWV office in

Washington. It does document that nonrefillable plastic bottles are superior in 5 out of 7 environmental areas (raw materials, water volume, industrial solid waste, waterborne waste, and post-consumer solid waste).

In November, we requested of the PCA director, verbally and in writing, that documentation and scientific data supporting the PCA position on the plastic milk bottles be sent to the League. To date, the PCA has been unwilling or unable to furnish any data. Therefore, LWV Minn. has withdrawn support for a legislative ban of nonrefillable plastic milk bottles. We do support a refillable milk container system, and will continue to focus our efforts on deposit legislation.

Three states have already enacted deposit legislation: Oregon, Vermont and South Dakota. Last fall Michigan and Maine passed statewide referendums. Deposit legislation has been extensively researched. The beneficial environmental effects are unquestioned. Returnable beverage containers are superior in 7 out of 7 environmental impact areas.

Ms. Pat Lucas
Minnesota League of
Women Voters
555 Wabasha Street
St Paul, Minnesota 55102
612-224-5445

Ms. Sally Foley
210 Yoho Drive
Anoka, Minnesota 55303
612-421-3033

MAR 1 1977

Nancy Grimsby
Natural Resources Portfolio
Edina League of Women Voters
5932 Wooddale Ave. So.
Edina, Minnesota 55424

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
555 Wabasha
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Attn: Mary Poppleton

Regarding the State Board of League of Women Voters action in placing the name of L.W.V.'s in a advertisement opposing the Milepost 7 site in the Sunday, February 6th issue of the Minneapolis Tribune.

I personally support the State Boards position opposing the Milepost 7 site. However I do take issue to the action taken by the State Board in not adequately informing the local Leagues prior to this public statement of the State League's opposition.

The issue of Milepost 7 has been argued publicly for quite some time. I feel very strongly that the State League Board has had sufficient time to inform League members of their opposition to the Milepost 7 site and on what League position statements they base their opposition. It is disconcerting to League members to have the announcement of their position published in an advertisement of another organization, before they are informed we have a position.

I reiterate, I do feel that the State League Board has adequate League position statements on which to base opposition to the Milepost 7 site. I think however the State Board's lack of communication to the local Leagues of their intentions was unfortunate.

Sincerely,
Nancy Grimsby

Virginia Badine

MAR 2 1977

SALLY FOLEY
JOYCE LAKE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF S.F.1

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

MARCH 1, 1977

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Joyce Lake, speaking for the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. Since 1973, the League has actively worked throughout the country for a returnable-refillable beverage container system.

Throwaway beverage containers waste energy, increase the generation of solid waste, increase the cost of beverages to consumers, and litter our roads, lakes, and streams. The problems created by these containers point out the need for national legislation. However, some states (unwilling to wait for Congress) have already taken action.

In 1972, Oregon was the first state to pass legislation requiring a deposit on all soft drink and beer containers. In 1973, Vermont passed similar legislation. Voters of Michigan and Maine recently passed statewide referendums which require a minimum deposit of 5¢.

In September of this year, the federal government will begin charging mandatory beverage container deposits on all federal property. The federal government will be taking this action following a successful trial experiment at Yosemite National Park last summer. In May 1976, the park began charging a 5¢ deposit on every beverage container sold. The purpose was to encourage campers to return bottles and cans, rather than toss them away as litter. The amount of litter in the park has been greatly reduced. The return rate for cans is 76%¹ and one ton of cans per week are being recycled from the park.² In the words of park ranger, John Birchill, "this has just about eliminated the litter problem."³

"LITTER IS BIG BUSINESS IN MINNESOTA" states a pamphlet distributed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Indeed it is! Last year, for the first time, the cost of litter collection along Minnesota state highways exceeded one million dollars. ONE MILLION DOLLARS - which is only a fraction of the total cost of litter pick-up to Minnesota taxpayers. ONE MILLION DOLLARS - which does not include administrative overhead or dump fees. ONE MILLION DOLLARS - which does not include the tax dollars spent by cities, towns, and counties to clean up their roads. Two years after enactment of Oregon's bottle bill, beverage container litter declined by 83%.⁴

Tax dollars are wasted on litter collection and consumer dollars are wasted at the checkout counter. Wise shoppers who purchase soft drinks and beer in returnable bottles definitely save money. In 1975, the League of Women Voters, in conjunction with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, conducted a nationwide price-comparison survey in 28 cities in 24 states.⁵ The survey results show that throughout the country, beverages sold in refillable containers cost less than the same product sold in throwaway containers.

Roseville and St. Paul were two cities included in the national survey. In Roseville, soft drinks sold in returnables were 54% cheaper than soft drinks sold in throwaways. In St. Paul, soft drinks sold in returnables were 60% cheaper than soft drinks sold in throwaways. In Minnesota and throughout the country, beverages are cheaper in returnables.

Perhaps the most compelling argument, at this time, for a returnable beverage container system in Minnesota is energy. In this winter of '77, the throwaway beverage container is an energy luxury we can no longer afford. While Minnesotans are directed not to exceed the 55 MPH speed limit and to set thermostats at 65 degrees, we continue to squander precious energy on throwaway beverage containers. The energy which could be saved if we return to an all-refillable beverage container system in Minnesota would heat 15,468 homes for one whole year, or provide all of the electrical needs of 39,815 Minnesota homes for an entire year.⁶ How long can we continue to divert 2% of all the home and business heating oil used in Minnesota to perpetuate the throwaway beverage container system?⁷

We believe that deposit legislation in Minnesota will save energy, save consumer dollars, reduce the generation of solid waste, and reduce litter. For these reasons, the League of Women Voters supports S.F.1 and urges your favorable consideration. Thank you.

CITATIONS

¹Sports Illustrated, August 2, 1976.

²John Chancellor News, KSTP-TV, February 3, 1977.

³Minneapolis Star, November 4, 1976

⁴Oregon's Bottle Bill, Two Years Later, Don Waggoner, Oregon Environmental Council, Portland, Oregon, 1974, p.7.

⁵Price Comparison Survey of Beer and Soft Drinks in Refillable and Non-refillable Containers, Charles Peterson, USEPA, 1976.

⁶Letter from Max Malmquist, physics instructor at Anoka-Ramsey Community College, November 29, 1976.

⁷Ibid.

May 6, 1977

Re S.F. 1

The League of Women Voters supports S.F. 1 which requires a minimum deposit of 10¢ on all beer and soft drink beverage containers sold in Minnesota.

Returnable bottles save energy, reduce the generation of solid waste, conserve natural resources, and reduce litter.

For these reasons we urge you to vote "yes" on S.F. 1.

Sincerely,

Jerry Jenkins, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

3/28/77

What kind of a law

Every time we drive down a road and see the piles of plain garbage, papers, containers, bottles and cans littering the environment, we mutter a not-too-silent cuss.

When we take the family to a picnic in the park and find the great outdoors full of the junk some thoughtless slob left behind, we have often said, "There ought to be a law. . . ."

cent of the litter that is left around in public places. Ban-can and deposit legislation addresses itself just to this 30 per cent.

Even if there was success in eliminating every pop bottle or beer can that now gets tossed out on public roads and places, there would still be the other 70 per cent ranging from plain garbage to paper of all sorts, and other



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Presented before
Senate Agriculture + Natural Resources Comm.
Mar. 22, 1977

TESTIMONY

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am SALLY FOLEY speaking for the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. I would like to respond to several statements made ^{during} in previous testimony before this committee.

First of all, I would like to respond to Senator Olson's statements about soda ash. Senator Olson explained that soda ash is used to manufacture ~~returnable~~ ^{glass} bottles, and he expressed concern that increased production of returnable bottles would also increase the use of soda ash.

I would like to point out that soda ash is also used to make aluminum. To make one ton of aluminum, it takes 969 pounds of soda ash, as well as 8,776 pounds of bauxite, 1,020 pounds of petroleum coke, 327 pounds of pitch, and 238 pounds of lime.¹ Therefore, it seems unlikely that expanded production of returnable bottles will use more of our natural resource, soda ash, than the present production of aluminum cans.

Mr. Bill Schott, President of Schott Distributors of Rochester, was concerned about laying off employees. He stated (and I quote) "we may have to lay off men." Perhaps it would allay his fears to know that beer wholesalers in Oregon added 43 to 50 new employees at the average wage of \$250 per week, with a total new Payroll of \$559,000 to \$650,000 per year.² These new jobs were a direct result of the Oregon deposit law.

And Mr. Bob Mahwald, speaking for the Minnesota Brewers Association, neglected to point out that as a direct result of the Oregon deposit law, 50 to 60 new skilled jobs were created in the brewing industry at average salaries of \$12,000 per year, with total annual payrolls increased by \$614,000 to \$736,000.³ Therefore, it seems unlikely that Mayor Latimer will have to worry about job losses in St. Paul breweries if S.F.1 is passed.

Mr. Dave Locey, representing the Minnesota Soft Drink Association, also failed to mention that as a direct result of Oregon's deposit law, 82 to 98 new jobs were created in the soft drink industry. 75 to 80 of those new jobs were skilled jobs at salaries of \$211 to \$252 per week, and 5 clerical jobs at \$160 per week with total new payrolls of \$872,000 to \$1,050,000 in additional wages for Oregon.⁴

Representative Brinkman and Mr. Hugh R. Cosgrove both voiced the concerns of Minnesota food retailers. I would like to remind them that in the "olden days" grocers had to find storage space for returnable milk bottles as well as returnable pop bottles; and if they could find space then, most likely they can find space now.

Mr. Cosgrove, in testimony before this committee, said that (and I quote) "S.F.1 will only delay the time of real solution to the problem." I would like to ask Mr. Cosgrove what is the "real solution" to our present problems of solid waste disposal, energy shortage, and natural resource depletion?

I suggest to you that there are no magic solutions to these problems, but S.F.1 will reduce the generation of solid waste, will save energy, and will conserve natural resources. For these reasons the League of Women Voters of Minnesota strongly supports the passage of S.F.1. Thank you.

1. REDUCE, publication of the League of Women Voters Education Fund, pg. 10
2. ADS, "Study of the Effectiveness and Impact of the Oregon Minimum Deposit Law", 1974, pg. II-134
3. ibid. pg.II-68
4. ibid. pg.II-4 and 5

MEMO: Members of the Minnesota
House of Representatives

FROM: Jerry Jenkins, President
Mary Poppleton, Chairman, Environmental Quality
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

RE: House File 33

February 6, 1976

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota reaffirms its
support of mandatory deposits on beverage containers.

We urge you to vote yes on House File 33.

STATEMENT: Hennepin County Solid Waste Energy and Resource Recovery Proposal
FROM: Charlotte Dietz, Chairman, Hennepin County Leagues of Women Voters
TO: Hennepin County Board of Commissioners
DATE: December 10, 1975

My name is Charlotte Dietz. I live in Minnetonka, Minnesota and I am Chairman of the Hennepin County Leagues of Women Voters.

The Hennepin County Leagues of Women Voters believe that a Hennepin County program for solid waste energy and resource recovery should incorporate policies:

1. that achieve an environment beneficial to health;
2. that forestall depletion of non-renewable resources;
3. that assign the major responsibility for solid waste management to the state and local governments;
4. that reduce the dependence on sanitary landfills, that increase the utilization of recyclable materials and that develop alternate energy sources;
5. that establish, coordinate and enforce a solid waste management program as a cooperative endeavor of local, regional, state and federal agencies with private industry. A cooperative effort is required to develop an effective system;
6. that endorse energy conservation as an integral part of an energy program, thereby reducing dependence on traditional fuels, and lastly,
7. that encourage and support education of the public on solid waste management and resource recovery so that the public may participate in all phases of these programs.

Pat

I am lobbying for HF 33 Beverage-Deposit Bill. Several legislators say all their mail is against the bill.

Would you please ask the Rochester & Richfield leagues to write & to get their neighbors & Sierra Club friends to write Friedrichs, Donald & Hakanson, Shirley (Rochester, Richfield resp.) to support this bill. Vote comes up Feb 3 - SOON! - full House vote, that is. And of course, if it fails in the House, it will get nowhere in the Senate. On the other hand, if it passes the House, it will do better in the Senate.

Could the Minnetonka League have any effect on Doug Ewald?

ALSO Janet Clark (Mpls) would like League support for her HF 1011 Dental aid to low-income elderly. Can you check this out?

Connie Metcalf

Call me if any questions
571-3596

M TO: Sue Scribner, Rochester
E Connie Hoverson, Richfield
M FROM: Harriett Herb, office manager
O SUBJECT Lobbying your legislators

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: 224-5445

DATE January 23, 1976

Connie Metcalf, LWVMN lobbyist for HF 33, Beverage Deposit Bill, needs you help in lobbying Friedrichs and Hokanson. The vote comes before the full House on Feb 3., and most of the in-coming mail has been anti so far. Connie feels that some pro letters would be very appropriate. So we urge you to write, your League members to do the same as individuals (for more clout), neighbors, friends, Sierra Club members and any other pro-s you can think of. Thanks much.

Sent this out on pink paper. Gave M.P. a copy.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 555 Wabasha, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102
March 1975

T I M E F O R A C T I O N

RE: Beverage Container Deposit Legislation - S.F. 15

TO: Presidents of Buffalo, Jackson, Fairmont, Crookston, Alexandria, Battle Lake,
Bemidji, Cass Lake, Hutchinson, Worthington, Rock County, St. Paul,
Stevens County (three copies enclosed)

FROM: Mary Watson - EQ Chairman

March 19, 1975

Background: See November-December VOTER and February 5, 1975 and March 5, 1975
CAPITOL LETTER.

WHAT TO DO: The Senate committee will be meeting on March 24 or March 26 to con-
sider this legislation. Your legislators listed below are key ones.

PLEASE GET YOUR MEMBERS TO RESPOND !!!!!!!!!!!

Thank you's for support to -

Dunn - Buffalo

H. Olson - Jackson-Sherburn, Fairmont. He may be qualifying his support.

Encourage the following with just a couple of calls and letters -

R. Moe - Crookston

Olhoft - Alexandria, Battle Lake

Willet - Bemidji Area, Cass Lake

Questionable and need pushing -

Bernhagen - Hutchinson

J. Olson - Worthington, Rock County

Stumpf - St. Paul. He is still unmoved. When talking to him emphasize his
support was not just labor - it was liberal support and his consti-
tuents want this legislation.

Berg - Stevens County. You've done a good job, but try again and get students
to work on it. He knows there's support for it - he gives no real
reason for not supporting.

T I M E F O R A C T I O N

Re: ~~Beverage Container Deposit~~ Legislation - H.F. 33

To: Presidents of Duluth, St. Cloud Area, St. Paul and Minneapolis (3copies enclosed)

From: Mary Watson - E.Q. Chairman

March 17, 1975

Background: See November-December VOTER and February 5, 1975 and March 5, 1975 CAPITOL LETTER.

WHAT TO DO: The full house committee will be meeting on April 1, 1975 to consider this legislation. Your legislators listed below are key ones. We need to encourage their continued support.

PLEASE GET YOUR MEMBERS TO RESPOND!!!!!!!!!!!!

N O T E !! Special thank-yous should be included to Munger and Skoglund.

Hansen is very important but may be sensitive on subject so St. Paul should move accordingly.

Hanson - St. Paul - position on 2/14/75 - ?

Munger - Duluth - position on 2/14/75 - YES

Skoglund - Minneapolis - position on 2/14/75 - ?

Patton - St. Cloud Area - position on 2/14/75 - YES

PERMANENT RECORD
SOUTH WORTH CO. U.S.A.
15X COTTON FIBER CONTENT

Testimony submitted to the Subcommittee on Environmental Protection
of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture
by Pat Stein, League of Women Voters of Minnesota
March 11, 1975, Room 112, 2 p.m., State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,

I am Pat Stein speaking in behalf of the nearly 5,000 members of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. Our members are located in 68 communities (39 counties) throughout the state. At this point, I would like to acquaint you with our position regarding Solid Waste Management. In 1973, we completed a two-year study of solid waste management practices at the state and federal level and reached consensus. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports the state government taking measures to reduce the generation of municipal solid waste through research and development of alternatives to sanitary landfills and measures to discourage the use of nonreturnable beverage containers. We support flexibility in the establishment and enforcement of standards in solid waste management to allow the state to adopt more stringent standards than the federal government.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports S.F. 15. We feel this bill represents a most effective way of dealing with over 631 million nonreturnable bottles and cans that Minnesotans discard each year.¹ We believe that beverage packaging is a significant part of the solid waste stream. Did you know that the increase in the consumption of beverage containers has far exceeded the increase in the consumption of beverages? According to the Federal Energy Administration's recently published report entitled Project Independence, nationally the consumption of beer and soft drink containers rose 221% between 1959 and 1972, while the consumption of beer and soft drinks rose only 33% for the same period.² In 1972, beverage packaging represented approximately 20% of all packaging waste and 7% of total municipal waste. This segment of the solid waste stream continues to grow at the alarming rate of 8% per year.³

Let me stress the fact that we do not see S.F. 15 as an end to the problem itself, but rather as a beginning to a sound management program in Minnesota. S.F. 15 is a timely and reasonable attempt to control one of the most rapidly growing components of the solid waste stream. We ask for your consideration and support of this bill.

1. Robert Dildine and Ron Rainey, Impacts of Beverage Container Regulation in Minnesota, January 1974, p. 7.
2. Federal Energy Administration, Project Independence Report, U. S. Government Printing Office 4118-00029, Appendices p. 174.
3. Wendt, Karen A., Damming the Solid Waste Stream: The Beginning of Source Reduction in Minnesota, MPCA, Special Services, January 1975.

TIME FOR ACTION

Re: Beverage Container Deposit Legislation - H.F. 33, S.F. 15 (these are not companion files)

To: Presidents (3 copies enclosed)

PRESIDENTS - Please note that YOU are responsible for notifying your Action and E.Q. Chairmen !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

From: Mary Watson - E.Q. Chairman

February 14, 1975

Background: See November-December VOTER and February 5, 1975 CAPITOL LETTER.

WHAT TO DO: Your Representative or Senator serves on the committee that will hear the beverage container deposit bill the week of March 3rd. We need to show strong constituent support for this bill.

Write to your legislator before March 3rd urging support of the bill stating the reasons League is urging its passage, i.e. conservation of natural resources, energy, savings to the consumer, etc. Following is a list of present positions as viewed by the lobbyists; you can take this into consideration when you write.

SENATE COMMITTEE

Moe Chrmn)	Yes
Wegener	?
Berg	Yes
Bernhagen	Yes
Dunn	Yes
Roger Hanson	No
Merriam	Yes
Olhoft	Undecided
Olson, Howard	Yes
Olson, John	No
Purfeerst	No
Renneke	No
Schrom	No
Stumpf	?
Willet	Yes

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Munger (Chrmn)	Yes	Nelsen, K. (author)	Yes
Hanson	?	Patton	Yes
Begich	No	Reding	?
Biersdorf	No	Schreiber	No
Braun	Yes	Searle	No
A. Carlson	Yes	Setzepfandt	?
Dieterich	Yes	Sherwood (co-author)	Yes
Fjoslien	Yes	Sieben, H.	?
Graba	No	Skoglund	?
Jacobs	Yes	Ulland (previous author)	Yes
Jensen	No		
Kahn	Yes	Vento	No
Kalis	Yes	Wenstrom	Yes
Kostohryz	Yes		
Luther	Yes		

TIME FOR ACTION

FOUR STAR BOND

SOUTHWESTERN COURIER

35% COTTON FIBER

T I M E F O R A C T I O N

To: Local Leagues Presidents (please send on to your EQ chairman)

From: Mary Watson, State EQ Chairman

Re: ~~Beverage~~ container deposit

December 9, 1974

Background: In 1973 the state League reached agreement to support measures to reduce the generation of solid waste by discouraging the use of nonreturnable beverage containers.

Explanation: Efforts to pass a ban on nonreturnable beverage containers at the local level have not been successful, but several municipal councils have indicated their approval to action at the state level. As an additional tool in our lobbying efforts in the state Legislature, we would like to show the support from municipal councils. We are asking you to seek the passage of the following resolution at the December or January meeting of your municipal council: RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE POLICY REGARDING NONRETURNABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS.

Whereas nonreturnable beer and soft drink containers contribute to the rising cost of waste disposal, and whereas such containers are highly consumptive of energy resources and steel and aluminum, therefore, be it resolved that the Council of _____ encourage the Minnesota Legislature to adopt appropriate legislation to establish a statewide policy regarding nonreturnable bottles and cans. (This is only a sample of the kind of resolution you might introduce; change it to fit your local needs.)

What to do: If your municipal council has an advisory environmental committee, the council will probably recommend that the resolution be sent there first. Call the chairperson of the environmental committee and have this resolution placed on the agenda. Attend the meeting, bringing copies of the resolution for each member; when you have committee approval of the resolution, take it to the council. If your community does not have an environmental committee, call your city manager or the mayor directly and ask that your resolution be placed on the agenda. Every member of the council should be contacted to explain the merits of the resolution before the council meeting. Letters to the editor of the local press should appear before the meeting. Strength in numbers at the meeting is important! Good luck!

Facts to help you:

Nonreturnable bottles require 4.4 times the amount of energy of returnables

Nonreturnable cans require 2.9 times the amount of energy of returnables*

(With containers re-used 15 times)

* Dr. Bruce Hannon, Center for Advanced Computation, University of Illinois,
Environment Magazine, March 1972.

Savings to the consumer - annually +

\$15,000,000 - 25,000,000. Beverages in throwaways cost more.

(over)

Savings in solid waste generation - annually +
\$500,000 - 860,000 saved in litter pick-up.
Oregon experienced an 80% reduction.

Savings in natural resources - annually +
21,000 tons of steel
2,500 tons of aluminum
31,000 tons of glass
Savings of these resources are worth \$9.6 million

Savings of energy - annually +
Equivalent of 16,500,000 gallons gas and diesel fuel.

Employment effects +
250 job dislocations
369-715 new jobs created.

+ Above figures from State Planning Agency report Impacts of Beverage Container
Legislative in Minnesota.

See below -

----- tear off -----

Return to state office by February 1, 1975

The LWV of _____ has introduced the resolution encouraging a state-
wide policy on nonreturnable bottles and cans; the results were _____

The LWV of _____ has not introduced the above resolution because _____

SOUTHWORTH CO. U.S.A.

FILE COPY

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

February 21, 1974

The Honorable Willard M. Munger
House Chambers
State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Munger:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota gave strong support to the Regional Resource Recovery bill as an enlightened and necessary solution to the solid waste problem. We favored the user fee as a fair and appropriate method of financing the program. Since indications of inequities have emerged, we approve the amendment to have the MPCA explore ways to impose an equitable user fee.

Regardless of the method of financing, resource recovery must become a reality; financing must not become the stumbling block.

Sincerely,

Mary Watson, Chairman
Environmental Quality
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

MW:jm



FILE COPY*LWV of Minnesota***memorandum****The League of Women Voters of the United States**

January 14, 1974

TO: Leagues in Districts with Members on the Subcommittee on Public Health and Environment of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee

FROM: Ruth C. Clusen, National Board Director/Environmental Quality

RE: **Solid Waste Legislation**

The Senate Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on the Environment held hearings in December on a new bill, S 2753 "Resource Conservation and Recycling Incentives Act of 1973." It represents a revision of three earlier solid waste bills on which the League testified last summer.

The LWVUS submitted a statement for the record on S 2753, copies of which have been sent to you. Briefly, the bill, like its predecessors, would revise freight rates for secondary materials, expand federal procurement policies and establish limited product regulation. But it would also provide for regulation of disposal practices for all wastes, establish energy recovery facilities in every Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area in the country and create a Council on Environmental Representation (a variety of legal aid for the poor).

In the House, numerous solid waste bills have been introduced, including HR 11878 recently introduced by Congressman Robert O. Tiernan (D RI) as the House counterpart to S 2753.

The House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Public Health and the Environment, chaired by Congressman Paul Rogers (D FL), has jurisdiction over solid waste legislation. Hearings have been tentatively scheduled for April or May. We fear, however, that so late a date may jeopardize Congressional action on solid waste before the end of the 93rd Congress.

Your Congressman is a member of this subcommittee. Please let him know of the League's strong interest in solid waste legislation. You do not have to ask him to support or oppose any bill at this time. Just urge him as a member of the subcommittee to press for hearings as soon as possible.

Members of the Subcommittee on Public Health and Environment:

Paul G. Rogers (D FL), Chairman
David E. Satterfield III (D VA)
Peter N. Kyros (D ME)
Richardson Preyer (D NC)
James W. Symington (D MO)
William R. Roy (D KS)

Ancher Nelsen (R MN)
Tim Lee Carter (R KY)
James F. Hastings (R NY)
H. John Heinz III (R PA)
William H. Hudnut III (R IN)

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 555 Wabasha, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

T I M E F O R A C T I O N

TO: Local League Presidents (2 copies)
Local League Action Chairmen (1 copy)

FROM: Mary Watson, Environmental Quality Chairman

RE: S.F. 634, authors Borden, Brown and Schaaf

January 3, 1974

Senate File 634, calling for a deposit on throwaway beverage containers in Minnesota, is expected to be voted on by the Senate during the week of January 15.

ABOUT THE BILL: This is not a bill to ban the can, but to place a minimum deposit on beverage containers presently being thrown away as litter or landfill. Consumers could return them to the store for credit. Manufacture and sale of beverage containers would still be permitted. This bill is similar to legislation now in effect in Oregon.

WHAT TO DO: Please write or call your SENATOR prior to January 15 and encourage him to vote in favor of the bill.

FACTS: The fact sheet you received in December should be revised with the following energy use figures:

"In the March 1972, edition of Environment magazine, Dr. Bruce Hannon of the University of Illinois published findings indicating that throwaway bottles use 4.4 times more energy than returnable bottles, and 12 oz. beer and pop cans use 2.9 times more energy than returnables."

Use of a 100% returnable system would save the energy equivalent to 23 million gallons of oil in Minnesota each year - or enough fuel to heat the homes of St. Cloud for an entire year.

Natural Resource Depletion: We can no longer afford to deplete our stores of iron, tin, aluminum and lead in the manufacture of throwaway containers.

Solid Waste: Industry has long used the argument that throwaways make up a small percentage of our solid waste. While that was true at one time, they currently constitute 7%, and the EPA predicts 15% between 1980-85.

At the bottom of this sheet we have circled how your Senator stands on the bill, according to our latest information. We hope that will be helpful in deciding how you approach him. Remember to send your congressional district coordinator a carbon of your letter or an action card, as well as to the state League office.

Your Senator is currently

in favor

opposed

undecided

August 29, 1973

The Honorable Willard Munger, Chairman
Environmental Preservation and Natural Resources Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Munger:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota was pleased to testify before your committee last session and support your worthy Resource Recovery bill which was landmark legislation. Congratulations on its passage! We appreciate your interest in our legislative priorities.

A Wetlands Management bill, HF 2401, will have our strongest support; this was introduced late in the session so it did not have a hearing. We feel this is most important if we are to protect our waters from further drainage and filling.

HF 1938, dealing with soil erosion and sedimentation will have our continued support; this is especially important in our urbanizing areas where developers do not take necessary precautions.

Beverage container deposit legislation (HF 673) is still an important issue and we will again testify in favor of its passage.

We will maintain our interest in surveillance fees for polluters, in a statewide water and related land planning bill (HF 1113), and in strengthening the Environmental Rights bill (HF 150).

We look forward to meeting with you before the next session.

Sincerely,

Mary Watson, Chairman
Environmental Quality

MW/hh

Copies: McCoy, Ebbott, EQ file

FILE COPY

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

August 7, 1973

Mrs. Lois Jeffrey
Environmental Quality Department
League of Women Voters Education Fund
1730 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mrs. Jeffrey:

We would like to include in the report to the Environmental Protection Agency information on a recently enacted bill on regional resource recovery facilities. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is authorized to make grants to any region, municipality or institution for studies of or construction of resource recovery facilities and the development of programs to encourage solid waste materials conservation. Public education and encouragement of market demands for reusable or recyclable material are also included for grants. The funding will come from a user fee for solid waste deposited at a sanitary landfill. The MPCA is also authorized to review new packaging and to prohibit the sale of packaging which would be a "solid waste disposal problem". The prohibition is effective only until the end of next legislative session. We lobbied strongly in support of this bill.

Minnesota also reached a state consensus to support measures to discourage the use of the non-returnable beverage container. The legislation introduced was similar to Oregon's, requiring a deposit on all beverage containers. This bill met with strong opposition from the container industry and did not get to the floor; it will be up for consideration again in 1974. We worked with a coalition group--Citizens Against Throwaways--and will continue to support this legislation.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Watson
State Environmental Quality Chairman
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

MW:jm
cc: Mary Ann McCoy, State President
Liz Ebbott, Vice President, Program/Action
Helene Borg, Action



FILE COPY

73

Testimony before the Sub-Committee on Pollution Control
of the House Committee on Environmental Protection and Natural Resources
by Pauline Langsdorf
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
555 Wabasha, St. Paul, Minnesota
Room 107, State Capitol, St. Paul, Minnesota

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,

I am Pauline Langsdorf, speaking in behalf of the 5114 members of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. Our members are located in 67 communities (39 counties) throughout the state.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has just completed a two year study of solid waste management practices at the state and federal level and has reached consensus.

While solid waste generation is increasing daily, appropriate landfill sites are decreasing and natural resources are being depleted at an alarming rate. Volume reduction at the source is a way to begin reversing this situation.

It has been argued that throwaway beverage containers are a small percentage of solid waste volume and we do not dispute that. However, as they are a non-essential item, decrease in their use seems to be an appropriate first step.

As in most environmental matters, everything has its cost. Decrease in the use of throwaway containers will cause a job loss unless members of the industry can be assimilated into associate industries. This assimilation does appear to be feasible.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports H.F. 673. Voluntary recycling of throwaway containers has not achieved the acceptance needed to reduce solid waste volume. The term "throwaway" has meant just that. We feel that a deposit requirement on non-returnable beverage containers will substantially reduce their use.

We do not see this as an end in itself, but rather as a beginning to a sound management program of Minnesota's solid waste.

FILE COPY

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 555 Wabasha, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102
October 1973

TIME FOR ACTION

To: LWV of New Brighton	Crystal-New Hope	Chaska
Roseville	Brooklyn Center	Westonka
St. Anthony	Bloomington	Winona
Shoreview	St. Paul	St. Louis Park
Arden Hills	Falcon Heights	St. Cloud Area
Owatonna	Wells	Albert Lea
Minneapolis	Alexandria	Cass Lake
Cloquet	Silver Bay	No. Dakota County
		Duluth

From: Mary Watson, Chairman
Environmental Quality

Re: Beverage Deposit Legislation - H.F. 673
October 12, 1973

We are expecting a committee vote on House File # 673 sometime in November. We are asking those Leagues who have representatives on the Environmental Preservation Committee to please contact those representatives and urge a yes vote on this bill.

Background:

The beverage container deposit bill (H.F. 673) did not reach the floor. The bill passed out of committee by only one vote last spring. Two of the legislators who voted for the bill are no longer on the committee. This makes it urgent that we get support for the bill which will be revoted on in committee (it passed out of committee after the deadline for which bills could be placed on General Orders last spring.)

Beverage containers are no longer an insignificant component of solid waste; they have jumped from 3.5% to 7% and are expected to grow to 15% in a few years. If you wish further information refer to the fact sheet sent in October 1972.

Your representative does serve on this committee. Please contact him now and urge that he support this bill.

THROWAWAY FACTS

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

- In 1973, Minnesotans consumed over 600 million throwaway beer and soft drink containers. If placed end to end they would circle the earth twice at the equator.
- Consumption of beer and soft drinks rose 29% between 1959 and 1969, while consumption of beverage containers rose 164%. This rapid growth in the consumption of containers can be traced to an increase in the use of nonreturnable containers. (EPA)
- Beer and soft drink cans and bottles comprise nearly half of all the cans and bottles manufactured in the United States.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- When compared with the three conventional one-way container systems (one-way glass, bi-metal and aluminum cans), the 10-trip returnable bottle system ranks 1st (best) in six of seven categories: energy use, resource use, water use, industrial solid waste, air pollution and waterborne wastes.
- When comparing the 10-trip returnable with the next-best container:
 - the bi-metal can requires 2.49 times more energy
 - the aluminum can requires 1.27 times more raw materials
 - one-way glass generates 3.76 times more industrial solid waste
 - bi-metal cans generate 2.36 times more air pollution

ENERGY

- Minnesota State Planning Agency estimates a savings of 2.15 trillion BTU's of energy with beverage container legislation in Minnesota. This is enough energy to:
 - provide the total energy needs of 17.7 hospitals the size of Hennepin County General Hospital for one year, or;
 - heat 11,292 homes for one year (in fuel oil equivalents), or;
 - run 9,889 tractors for one year.

SOLID WASTE

- EPA states that beverage containers are the fastest growing single component of municipal solid waste - growing at 8% per year.
- State Planning Agency predicts a reduction in solid waste volume of 6,384 packer-truckloads with a deposit on beverage containers. 15.7 Metro Recycling Centers would be required to have the same impact on solid waste.

LITTER

- EPA says that beer and soft drink containers comprise about 20% to 32% of roadside litter by item count and 54% to 70% by volume. State Planning Agency estimates a 30% or greater reduction in litter volume with a savings of from \$540,000 to \$860,000 per year.

NATURAL RESOURCE DEPLETION

- In 1968, approximately 10% of the world's tin production was used in the manufacture of cans in this country. (MINERAL FACTS AND PROBLEMS, p. 763 and 765) According to Limits to Growth, known global reserves at the current rate will last about 17 years.
- In 1968, 2.75 times more aluminum was used in the manufacture of cans and other packaging than was used in the manufacture of aircraft and parts. (MINERAL FACTS AND PROBLEMS, p. 454) In the period 1972-1980, the greatest growth is expected for the aluminum container. (EPA)

ECONOMICS

CONSUMER SAVINGS

- Minnesotans will pay \$14.8 million less for the same volume of beer and soft drinks with a mandatory deposit law. (State Planning Agency)

SALES

- According to State Planning Agency estimates beer and soft drink sales may experience a one-year setback in growth rates, but no loss of present sales volume is likely. Oregon beer sales through September, 1974 were up 4% over the same period in 1973.

JOBS

- 715 new jobs will be created with a container deposit - 450 of them in the area of beer and soft drink distribution and soft drink bottling. The rest of the new jobs will be in the retail field. Most recent estimates place job losses at 227, most of them in the area of container manufacture.

As one supporter of national container legislation has said, "We won't have many chances to save energy, conserve resources, reduce litter and solid waste volumes and create new jobs with one bill. We should take advantage of it."

Deposit Legislation is supported by: The League of Women Voters * The Minnesota Jaycees * The Izaak Walton League * Council of Community Councils * The Northern Environmental Council * The Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG) * The St. Cloud Area Environmental Council * The Minnesota Environmental Control Citizens Association (MECCA) * The Minnesota Conservation Federation * The Fargo-Moorhead Ecological Coordinating Committee * Joint Religious Legislative Committee * Minnesota Association of High School Student Councils * Housewives Alert to Pollution in Northfield (HAT PIN) * Students for Environmental Defense at North Hennepin State Junior College * The Sierra Club * The Greater Metropolitan Council * Metro Clean Air * Clear Air-Clear Water *

TO: Local League Presidents, Legislative Action Chairmen,
and Environmental Quality Chairmen
FROM: Mary Watson, Environmental Quality Chairman
April 9, 1973
RE: H.F. 673 companion S.F. 634 - Requires deposit and refund on all
beverage containers sold in state.

League Background:

Our 1973 consensus to support measures to reduce the generation of solid waste through a ban on non-returnable beverage containers.

Legislative Action 1973 Session:

House

H.F. 673 - Chief Author James Ulland; other authors John Boland, Fred Norton, Ken Nelson, Gary Laidig. It is presently in subcommittee. It provides for a deposit and refund on all beverage containers sold in the state. No refunds would be given for throwaways so it would discourage their use.

Senate

S.F. 634 - Chief Author Winston Borden; other authors, Robert Brown, David Schaaf. Passed favorably out of subcommittee; will go to full committee.

Information in support of the bill

Necessity to reduce the volume of solid waste

In 1973, in Minnesota alone, it is estimated 840 million throwaway beverage containers will be consumed--enough to circle the earth at the equator twice.

Necessity to save energy

Returnables would save the energy equivalent of 23 million gallons of oil--enough to heat homes in a city the size of St. Cloud for one year.

Necessity to save natural resources

47% of all cans produced were for non-returnables. Throwaways provide convenience to the consumer and additional profits to manufacturers.

Employment Concerns

The lobbyist for the bottlers and canners claims many jobs would be lost and that sales would decrease.

A study done by Hugh Folk, Center for Advanced Computation at the U. of Illinois, shows that employment would be increased.

The Research Triangle Institute of N. Carolina indicated no significant effect on employment.

Oregon has recently enacted legislation similar to this bill; their experience is that sales of soft drinks has not decreased and that beer sales have increased.

Three distributors located out of the metropolitan area have supported the legislation. Glenn Stevens, Coca Cola Bottling, Bemidji, said "I do agree that the returnable bottle use should be encouraged. This would create more jobs in the rural areas."

United Auto Workers said in testimony, "Continuing the use of throwaways is nothing more than a very expensive subsidy of the container manufacturing industry."

A group called Citizens Against Throwaways has a slogan - 90% Say Yes. This was the result of a poll taken in the Metro area in June 1972. Remind your legislator that this is a strong indication that the consumer wants a return to returnables!

What to do

1. Send official League letters to all your legislators now.
2. Alert League members and other citizens to contact their legislators now. Explain your support for the bills. It is important that we have general acceptance of this concept when it comes to both houses for a vote.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 555 Wabasha, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

April 1973
FL - 1

TIME FOR ACTION

To: Selected Local League Presidents and Legislative Action Chairman

From: Pat Lucas, Human Resources Committee

Date: April 5, 1973

Re: Tenant's Rights - Damage Deposit Legislation H.F. 1034 - Berg, Berglin, Fenderow, Savelkoul, Stanton

Background: See attached sheet and Statement given to Subcommittee

What To Do: This is a limited Time for Action to Leagues with legislators on the Housing, Commerce and Economic Development Committee. Please write or contact your legislator and add your support to this bill. It has been passed favorably by the subcommittee: Resner, Chairman, Spanish, Tomlinson, Wohlwend and Pieper. Mr. Pieper voted no but only because the bill exempts damage deposits for units renting for over \$300/month. This may be changed when it reaches the full committee. We expect the bill to reach the full committee on April 13.

Commerce and Economic Development Committee:

Adams, J. Chairman

Genners

Anderson, G.

Cheney

Fjoslien

Fedro

Heinicks

Jaros

Tomlinson

Johnson, D.

Jopp

Kvam

LaVoy

McArthur

McCauley

Miller

Wigley

Pavlak, R.L.

Pieper

Resner

Ryan

Sieben, M.

Spanish

Stanton (author)

Wohlwend

Leagues to Receive this Time for Action:

Winona

Oshtemo

Marquette Area

Rochester

Orishell

Stevens Count

Hibbing

Alexandria

Chaska

St. Paul

Minneapolis

Brooklyn Center

Columbia Heights

Fridley

St. Croix Valley

Bloomington

Silver Bay

Golden Valley

Crystal-New Hope

Duluth

West Dakota County

Roseville

Woodbury

Granite Falls

Moorhead

Battle Lake

Hutchinson

FILE COPY

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

To: Members of Senate Committee on Natural Resources and
Agriculture
Members of House Committee on Environmental Preservation
and Natural Resources

From: Mary Ann McCoy, President, League of Women Voters of
Minnesota
Mary Watson, Chairman, Environmental Quality Committee

Re: Non-Returnable Beverage Container Legislation

March 6, 1973

At this point the League of Women Voters of Minnesota would like to acquaint you with our position regarding Solid Waste Management. It reads:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports the state government taking measures to reduce the generation of municipal solid waste through research and development of alternatives to sanitary landfills and measures to discourage the use of non-returnable beverage containers.

Support flexibility in the establishment and enforcement of standards in solid waste management to allow the state to adopt more stringent standards than federal standards.

In light of this position we are giving support to two bills; S.F. 634 (Borden) and H.F. 673 (Ulland). These companion bills require a deposit on non-returnable beverage containers. Hopefully, since returnables and non-returnables would then be equally attractive use of the throw-away container would diminish.

While the League of Women Voters of Minnesota realizes that beverage container legislation is not the final solution to the solid waste management problem, we do feel it is a positive, attainable first step in volume reduction.

We ask for your consideration and support of S.F. 634 and H.F. 673.



FILE COPY

Testimony before the Sub-Committee on Environmental Protection
of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture

by Mary Poppleton

League of Women Voters of Minnesota

March 16, 1973

Room 112, State Capitol, St. Paul, Minnesota

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,

I am Mary Poppleton, speaking in behalf of the 5114 members of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. Our members are located in 67 communities (39 counties) throughout the state.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has just completed a two year study of solid waste management practices at the state and federal level and has reached consensus.

While solid waste generation is increasing daily, appropriate landfill sites are decreasing and natural resources are being depleted at an alarming rate. Volume reduction at the source is a way to begin reversing this situation.

It has been argued that throwaway beverage containers are a small percentage of solid waste volume and we do not dispute that. However, as they are a non-essential item, decrease in their use seems to be an appropriate first step.

As in most environmental matters, everything has its cost. Decrease in the use of throwaway containers will cause a job loss unless members of the industry can be assimilated into associate industries. This assimilation does appear to be feasible.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports S.F. 634. Voluntary recycling of throwaway containers has not achieved the acceptance needed to reduce solid waste volume. The term "throwaway" has meant just that. We feel that a deposit requirement on non-returnable beverage containers will substantially reduce their use.

We do not see this as an end in itself, but rather as a beginning to a sound management program of Minnesota's solid waste.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 555 Wabasha, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102
February, 1973
Pm - P

Solid Waste Consensus

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports the state government taking measures to reduce the generation of municipal solid waste through research and development of alternatives to sanitary landfills and measures to discourage the use of non-returnable beverage containers.

Support flexibility in the establishment and enforcement of standards in solid waste management to allow the state to adopt more stringent standards than the federal standards.

For your information -

Mandatory Vehicle Emissions Inspection

The Environmental Quality Committee agreed to support mandatory motor vehicle inspection to facilitate and insure that Minnesota meet the air quality standards by 1977. We felt the legislation should include the following:

1. Emission standards based on the age of the vehicle.
2. A period of one year granted before compliance so the owner would be aware of the deficiencies of his vehicle.
3. A state operated system.
4. A self-supporting system, financed by an increase in the motor vehicle license.
5. Annual inspection procedures should include all trucks.
6. Inspection at the time of transfer of title to protect the consumer.
7. Preferably a state-wide system.

The Metro Clean Air Committee has written a bill which covers mandatory emissions inspection as well as safety and noise inspection. We, of course, can only support the air emission inspection section.

Our national position on air quality does include this mandatory inspection.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 555 Wabasha, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

October, 1972

MEMO TO: Board Members for Board Meeting 10/10/72

FROM: Mary Watson

October 3, 1972

There has been interest evidenced in having some state positions on E.Q. The E.Q. Committee met and proposes the following additions to the national consensus questions. () denotes additions.

I. A - Should the major responsibility for solid waste management remain with the states and localities?

B - Should the role of the federal government in solid waste management be expanded?

C - If the federal role is expanded, should the federal government have the authority to

issue federal criteria and standards

issue regulations based on federal standards

offer federal financial assistance to localities

intensify R&D for new, improved, less expensive methods of collection and disposal

by offering financial aid for R&D

by offering technical aid for R&D

(D)- If you favor federal criteria and standards should the state be able to establish and enforce more stringent standards than federal?

II. A - Should the federal government establish national policies and programs to encourage recycling of post-industrial and post-consumer wastes?

B - If the federal government were to establish such policies and programs, what priority would your League place on each of the following goals?

reduce volume of wastes for which a community must find disposal sites
make it possible for a community to recover part of its waste disposal costs

increase use of post-industrial wastes, not post-consumer wastes

forestall depletion of nonrenewable resources

other

undecided

III. A - Should the federal government try to increase demand for secondary materials?

B - If the federal government were to work to increase such demand, would your League support

equalizing tax treatment of virgin and secondary materials

by reducing tax exemptions of extractive industries

by increasing tax exemptions for secondary materials industry

equalizing transportation rates for virgin and secondary materials

increasing fees for use of federal lands to produce virgin materials

- reducing subsidies on inorganic fertilizers or offering subsidies on compost and sewage sludge
- revising federal specifications for products made of reclaimed materials
- increasing federal government purchase orders for products made of reclaimed materials
- modifying federal labelling requirements for products made of reclaimed materials
- federal stockpiling of recyclable materials
- altering federal patent policy
- offering tax benefits to companies that install equipment that allows use of recyclable materials
- offering direct subsidies to companies that increase their use of recyclable materials
- other

IV. A - Should the federal government help states and localities develop recycling facilities?

B - If the federal government were to give such help to state, local and regional agencies, would your League support the federal government

- increasing its financial aid for R&D on recycling
- increasing its technical assistance capabilities
- offering planning grants to regional and state agencies
- offering construction grants
- offering low cost loans
- guaranteeing bonds
- subsidizing separation of post-consumer waste at source
- other

C - Should the federal government encourage increased emphasis on non-federal building and operating recycling facilities?

D - Among nonfederal sources of funding construction and operation of recycling facilities would your League support

- used fees, levied according to amount of waste generated
- local tax revenues
- state tax revenues
- local revenue or general obligation bonds
- state revenue or general obligation bonds
- investment of private capital
- other

V. A - Should the federal government take measures to reduce the generation of municipal solid wastes?

(1.) Do you believe population stabilization would help decrease municipal solid waste? (Minority view)

B - If the federal government were to emphasize reduction in volume of municipal wastes at their source, what kinds of materials should receive attention first - how should the federal government encourage such reduction

(C) - Should the state government take measures to reduce the generation of municipal solid waste such as "Research and Development into alternatives to sanitary landfills"

1. State-wide ban on non-returnable beverage containers.

**FILE COPY****MINNESOTA SOLID WASTE FACT SHEET****The League of Women Voters of Minnesota**July 1972
Pm - PGuidelines for National Questionnaire

A survey of the solid waste situation in Minnesota has been conducted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for planning purposes in Minnesota and as part of the National Survey by the Solid Waste Program of HEW.

There are approximately 1,000 land disposal sites in Minnesota, many of which are to be closed as either inadequate or uneconomical under MPCA regulations.

Community description reports were compiled on the Metro Area and the 43 communities outside the seven county area having a population of 5,000 or more. As of November '70, 600 sites had been surveyed. Here are the results:

Fly or Rodent Control Problem	90%
Burning	87%
Salvaging practiced	85%
Water pollution problem	23%
Daily earth cover	3%
Operate as a sanitary landfill	1%
Land Use plan	1%

The majority of these dumps will have to close down as only 1% conform to state regulations.

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY REGULATIONS
GOVERNING DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE**PROHIBITED OPERATIONAL FACTORS:**

- No open burning.
- No leaching into ground or surface waters.
- No salvaging (collecting, storing and reselling refuse).

PROHIBITED LOCATIONS

- Shoreland.
- Within 1,000 feet of state, federal or interstate highway.
- Within 1 mile of a municipal well.
- 20 feet from the adjacent property line.

REQUIRED OPERATIONAL FACTORS

- Wind-blown material collected each day.
- Covered after each day of operation (6 inches).
- Surface water drainage diverted around landfill.
- Control of flies, rodents, etc.
- Fire control equipment on site for control of accidental fire
- Arrangement with local fire protection agency.
- Sanitary facilities - rest rooms for attendants.
- Shelter for site personnel.

Attendant on duty at all times.

Site fenced.

Gate - locked when landfill is closed.

Permanent sign - showing permit number, business hours, etc. at site entrance.

Two feet of compacted earth final cover - upon completion of landfill.

All weather construction approach road - not dirt.

Seeded with native grasses or other suitable vegetation upon completion of landfill.

Types and quantities of wastes reported monthly to Pollution Control Agency.

REGULATIONS REGARDING HANDLING OF TOXIC AND HAZARDOUS WASTES

Separate area provided - permanent sign erected showing use and precautions to be taken.

Must be 10 feet above ground water or limestone.

Area must be sealed prior to disposal use.

Covered immediately with 18 inches of earth.

Material must be registered with county register of deeds.

Type and quantity reported to Pollution Control Agency monthly.

The seven county Metropolitan Area is subject to solid waste policies defined by the Metropolitan Council. These are refinements of PCA regulations appropriate to the metro area.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL POLICIES

PROHIBITED LOCATIONS

1,000 feet of normal highwater mark of lake, pond, reservoir or impoundment.

300 feet of river or stream or the landward side of a flood plain.

Within a highwater table of any type.

Wetlands.

1,000 feet of platted residential, institutional, commercial or park development.

REQUIRED OPERATIONAL FACTORS

Post a schedule of rates.

Site must be open to all users.

Special provision made for disposal by individuals.

Facilities to control dust, flies, rodents, odors, etc.

Ensure the availability of fire protection facilities.

Complete visual screening.

Seal the site sufficiently.

"All-Season nine-ton axle load" access road.

Separate areas for toxic and hazardous waste.

No putrescible (gas formed by animal tissue decomposing) waste within five feet of highest known water table.

REUSE AND MAINTENANCE

Select sites with beneficial reuse to the community.

Prepare a reuse plan that is acceptable to the local governments.

Develop the landfill in accordance with the specifications of the reuse plan.

Prohibit single-family residential construction over the fill.

File a certificate of completion to the county register of deeds.

Require continued inspection and maintenance.

Prohibit abandonment or termination without proper safeguards.

EXEMPTIONS TO MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY REGULATIONS

Exemptions to these regulations will be permitted for transition and planning only until July 1, 1972.

For a resident population of 1,000 or less an open dump may be operated under the following conditions:

- The permit is reviewed annually.
- Permanent sign posted at entrance.
- No toxic wastes, domestic sewage, industrial wastes dumped.
- Site is 1/4 mile from residences or places of public gathering.
- Site is compacted and covered with 12 inches of soil at least 4 times a year or more often.
- Animal carcasses and garbage burned weekly.
- Measures taken to prevent wind-blown debris and spread of accidental fire.
- Open burning is prohibited.
- Fire protection arrangements must be made with local fire department.
- Measures must be taken to control flies, vermin, etc.
- Deposited material cannot cause pollution of water.

For a resident population of 1,000 to 2,500 modified sanitary landfills may operate under these conditions:

- The permit is reviewed annually.
- Site is 1/4 mile from residences or places of public gathering.
- Animal carcasses and garbage are buried daily.
- Area is compacted and covered with 6 inches of soil weekly or more often.
- Wind-blown debris is cleaned up promptly.
- Measures must be taken to prevent spread of accidental fire and fire protection contracted with the local fire department.
- Insects and rodents must be controlled.
- Open burning is prohibited.
- A permanent sign must be posted.
- Operation must have a gate at the entrance.
- Must have an all-weather construction road leading to the site.
- Must be 1,000 feet from state, federal or interstate highway or well screened with natural cover.

TIMETABLE FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANS

On or before July 1, 1971 each county in Minnesota was required to submit to the Pollution Control Agency a workable preliminary plan for a solid waste management system within the county. On or before July 1, 1972 each county was to submit for the approval of the Agency a workable final plan for a solid waste management system within the county. The plan may be amended from time to time as changing conditions occur by filing revisions for the approval of the Agency. Such plans and revisions shall be adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the county prior to filing with the Agency.

Each County Plan shall provide for solid waste management system to serve all persons within the county. Two or more counties may elect to submit a joint plan.

The Agency realizes that for disposal facilities in low population areas to upgrade to sanitary landfill standards would not be economically feasible. The variance to allow operation until July 1, 1972 was for the purpose of consolidation of services with surrounding sites. With a larger population area the required sanitary landfill standards would be feasible.

During the last legislative session enabling legislation was passed allowing counties with acceptable plans to levy up to 3 mills for solid waste handling and storage. As of July 1, 1972, 10 County Plans have been submitted for approval. Non-conforming sites are being allowed to operate as they are the only local depositories for solid waste.

There are several solid waste problems which by their nature must be treated separately. They include:

MINING INDUSTRY - As long as taconite tailings are dumped into water they are not under the jurisdiction of the Solid Waste Division of the PCA. If court decisions decree that the tailings must be stockpiled on land, it will become solid waste and regulated as such. Watch for developments here.

JUNK CARS - Enabling legislation has been passed allowing counties to hire private haulers to collect and mash junk cars and transport them to a recycling operation. After they have been recycled the county may submit a bill to the PCA. An \$800,000 fund has been provided for reimbursement. The fund gets its revenue from a \$1 tax levied on all automobile title transfers within the state. Most of the counties are now collecting junk cars.

FEEDLOTS - PCA regulations regarding feedlots are lengthy and detailed. A condensed form follows here. Local Leagues desiring the full publication should contact:

Mary Poppleton
11009 London Dr.
Burnsville, Minnesota 55378

STORAGE

Owner or operator of feedlot is responsible for storage, transportation and disposal of manure generated on property.

Manure must be stored to prevent pollution of land, air or water.

- a) storage area designed to restrict seepage into ground waters.
- b) storage areas must be surrounded by dike sufficient to contain all manure generated and prevent mixing and runoff with outside areas.
- c) storage areas must be sloped to allow collection at controlled discharge points.
- d) storage tanks provided where manure is stored as a slurry (liquid). Does not apply where animals are kept on slotted floors over a pit or outdoor holding ponds are utilized.
- e) storage areas located at least 100 feet from wells or water sources.
- f) no wastes may be stored for one 1 year unless manure packs or mounding is used.

TRANSPORTATION

All vehicles transporting animal wastes shall be covered and durable.

Vehicles transporting slurry shall be leak-proof.

Wastes must be transported in compliance with federal, state, and local government regulations.

DISPOSAL

Open burning of animal wastes is prohibited.

Treatment works must be designed and constructed in accordance with PCA Water Quality Standards.

Disposal of animal wastes shall conform to regulations of Minnesota Livestock Sanitary Board.

PROHIBITED LOCATIONS

Within shoreland.

Within a floodway.

Within 1,000 feet of a boundary of a park.

In sinkholes or areas draining into sinkholes.

Within one half mile of the nearest point to a concentration of ten or more private residences at time of construction.

A permit issued by the PCA is now required for all new animal and poultry feedlots. Permit applications must include:

a) map or aerial photograph showing homes, lakes, wells, topography, drainage patterns, etc.

b) description of geological conditions, soil types and ground water elevations.

c) full operational procedure plan.

Permits may be revoked for violation of regulations. Appeals must be made within 90 days.

COMPLAINT AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

Violations of PCA Solid Waste regulations should be reported to PCA by letter. At this time a representative of the Solid Waste Division will investigate the complaint. Complaints may be initiated by private citizens or local governmental officials. If further action is needed, the Attorney General or county attorney of the county in which the violation occurred shall bring action in district court at the request of the PCA.

In the event of imminent danger to health and welfare the Agency may by emergency order direct the abatement of such pollution without notice and without a hearing. The order shall be applicable to appropriate district court.

At this time it looks as though Minnesota will receive approximately \$400,000 in federal funds to develop and help set up a Model Solid Waste Ordinance for Counties. The ordinance will be flexible and may be modified by the counties to fit their own needs. When completed the ordinance will be used as a model by the other states.

For the sake of efficiency we are asking local Leagues to channel PCA communications through Mary Poppleton, Solid Waste Coordinator, State Environmental Quality Committee. She is the State League's direct contact with PCA Solid Waste Division.

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August 1971

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- No salvaging (collecting, storing and reselling refuse).

PROHIBITED LOCATIONS

- Shoreland.
- Within 1,000 feet of state, federal or interstate highway.
- Within 1 mile of a municipal well.
- 20 feet from the adjacent property line.

REQUIRED OPERATIONAL FACTORS

- Wind-blown material collected each day.
- Covered after each day of operation (6 inches).
- Surface water drainage diverted around landfill.
- Control of flies, rodents, etc.
- Fire control equipment on site for control of accidental fire.
- Arrangement with local fire protection agency.
- Sanitary facilities - rest rooms for attendants.

Shelter for site personnel.
Attendant on duty at all times.
Site fenced.
Gate - locked when landfill is closed.
Permanent sign - showing permit number, business hours, etc. at site entrance.
Two feet of compacted earth final cover - upon completion of landfill.
All weather construction approach road - not dirt.
Seeded with native grasses or other suitable vegetation upon completion of landfill.
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- Site is compacted and covered with 12 inches of soil at least 4 times a year or more often.
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

State Plan for Solid Waste Management
Solid Waste Education, available without
charge from:

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
c/o F. J. Forsberg
717 Delaware Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440

For the Metro Area Leagues,

Metropolitan Development Guide - Solid Waste
Management, available from:

Mary Poppleton
11009 London Drive
Burnsville, Minnesota 55378
Phone - (612) 890-4486

For all members - a "must" to read:

American Legion Magazine - August 1971
"The Easiest Way to Destroy the Dump Files"