



February 18, 2011

Ms. Patsy Gillham
Plastic Pollution Texas
1901 Lexington Street
Houston, TX 77098

Re: Texas Bottle Bill 2011

Dear Ms. Gillham:

I am writing to state that the Galveston Bay Foundation endorses the efforts of Plastic Pollution Texas to establish a refundable deposit system for beverage containers in Texas. We support the proposed Texas Bottle Bill 2011 to initiate a 5-cent and 10-cent refundable deposit on all aluminum, glass and plastic beverage containers sold in the State of Texas.

The Galveston Bay Foundation was founded in 1987 as a non-profit organization to preserve, protect and enhance Galveston Bay and its tributaries for present users and for posterity. Thus, we are encouraged by efforts such as yours to protect this resource for future generations. Litter, including countless plastic, aluminum and glass beverage containers, blight Galveston Bay, its network tributary bayous and creeks, and our local Gulf of Mexico beaches. Not only is this litter unsightly, thus diminishing the appeal of our area to potential tourists and others who would spend money and support our local economy, it is harmful to our fish and wildlife. Litter clogs the nets of our bay's commercial fishermen. Further, rafts of beverage containers clog our culverts, ditches, creeks, and bayous thus increasing the risk of flooding to area residents.

Not only would the Bottle Bill 2011 reduce harm to our economy, fish and wildlife, and reduce flooding risks, it would generate jobs in Texas for Texans as entrepreneurs create businesses based on the resulting robust recycling market. Finally, this program is self-sustaining, critically important in these trying economic times.

Eleven states have bottle bill laws, experience demonstrate that financial incentives and convenient returns systems ensure the efficient and maximum recycling of beverage containers. The Texas Bottle Bill would assure all Texans, in every region of the state, the opportunity to return beverage containers conveniently, efficiently, and economically. The proposed bill would increase recycling rates by initiating a 10 cent refundable deposit on all aluminum, glass and plastic beverage container sold in the state. In summary, the Galveston Bay Foundation views Texas Bottle Bill 2011 as a win for both the environment and for businesses and the economy.

Please contact me at (281) 332-3381 x211 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Stokes", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bob Stokes
President
Galveston Bay Foundation