



## Needed: National Container Deposit Legislation

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*Marialyce Pedersen, NRC Secretary and Board Member*

Recyclers are lauding November's [Can Manufacturers Institute announcement](#) of an ambitious new goal: to achieve a 70 percent aluminum beverage can recycling rate by 2030, and 90 percent by 2050. NRC Board Member and Container Recycling Institute (CRI) President Susan Collins supports the targets, but is quick to add that “the goals can only be achieved with a strong national deposit law.”

To support a unified, national beverage container recycling law, CRI and other allies have compiled information online for use by fellow advocates, the [Bottle Bill Resource Guide](#). NRC leaders, along with representatives from Zero Waste USA, the Institute for Local Self-Reliance and the [National Stewardship Action Council \(NSAC\)](#), are also crafting a standalone national bottle recycling bill, utilizing language to establish a 10-cent bottle deposit rate from [The Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act](#), which was reintroduced in March.

The Sierra Club too, which has supported a national bottle bill since the mid-1970s, has an active zero waste group which published an updated beverage recycling [guidance document](#) in August.

While national recycling legislation has struggled for many years, despite continually mounting proof that when containers have a value, they will get recycled, PET plastic and glass bottle industries are now acting in unison with aluminum bottlers to support well-designed deposit systems, and Collins sees recent actions by US states and other countries as signs that this year feels promising for passage of a US bottle deposit law.

From the Bottle Bill site, “Deposit systems increase collection and recycling of beverage containers, providing a resilient domestic supply chain of high-quality material. Increased recycling of our containers will help the environment and the economy. Still, it is important that deposit systems are done right. We are ready to work with lawmakers and other stakeholders to bring about well-designed deposit systems in the United States.”

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