

HSB 661 – Natural Resources Subcommittee meeting Monday, Feb. 16, 2026

This proposed bottle bill, HSB 661, would expand the definition of “beverage” to include noncarbonated soft drinks, similar to other included beverages, packaged in a metal can and intended for human consumption, to indicate and be redeemable for the refund value outlined in Code section 455C.2. Allowing non-carbonated drinks in metal cans to be incorporated into the bottle bill, HSB 661 intends to stave off a shortage of aluminum. Expanding the types of beverages in metal cans is an excellent first step.

Iowa made it harder to recycle. There are fewer redemption locations. And, mobile systems, while very good, aren't up to speed yet.

The 5-cent deposit doesn't motivate consumers to return cans. The current fee is simply not sufficient for consumers to take the time to help manufacturers. Even though consumers are an integral part of the process, their role was ignored, and it shows. Every can lost is domestic aluminum wasted, driving up imports and manufacturing costs and hurting jobs. An additional step — increasing the bottle deposit fee to 10 cents and tying the deposit fee to inflation — would encourage more people to redeem and recycle.

HSB 661 is a simple fix: include noncarbonated soft drinks in the bottle bill. A second step would incentivize consumers: raise the deposit to 10 cents, tie the deposit fee to inflation, enforce the redemption rules, and track results.

If we don't act, we're part of the problem. If we do, we recover aluminum, protect the environment, and strengthen Iowa's economy.

Thank you,
Linda Schreiber
Johnson County