

Clinton County Area Solid Waste Agency

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To Members of the Recycling Policy Committee:

I am writing to share my views with the committee established to study beverage container recycling in the state of Iowa. I believe that a beverage container deposit model or bottle bill remains a necessity for the state of Iowa.

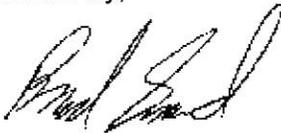
It should be known that Mr. Strunk from the Main Avenue Redemption Center (MARC) of Clinton approached me about working together early in 2015. After much discussion and planning, Mr. Strunk and I were able to work out an agreement to address some of the redeemable containers (mainly aluminum cans) going through the recycling center at the Clinton County Area Solid Waste Agency. Since late June, Mr. Strunk's MARC has only netted slightly more than 1300 lbs. in aluminum cans from CCASWA. This is compared to the nearly 3900 lbs. of aluminum cans processed and shipped out by CCASWA to other outlets. These other containers are mostly, if not all, non-deposit or out of state aluminum cans.

I am firm believer in the benefits of having a bottle bill. Bottle bills not only provide for cleaner roadways, trails, and parks, but such programs also encourage entrepreneurial opportunities for persons, such as Mr. Strunk, who see recycling as the right thing to do. Bottle bills also show many people the value of hard days' work and recycling. Such plans can encourage the young child who wants to make a few dollars, the downtrodden individual who needs a brief financial pick-me-up, or even an avid recycler.

I also believe it is imperative the committee works to also expand and improve the bottle bill in the state of Iowa. The bill, which has quite a bit of age to it, needs to be examined. This committee and lawmakers should consider potential expansion to include other containers and potential restructuring of the way the financial intake is shared. This is important, as there are many more stakeholders involved than this program could have possibly envisioned in its original form. Iowa's Bottle Bill should be a living and evolving program, which can be adapted to include future products that could be created.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Brad Seward
Director of Operations & Education