



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11, 2019

Contact: Meegan Holland, mholland@retailers.com

Michigan Retailers statement on introduction of HB 5306 and SB 701

LANSING, Mich. – Retailers continue to work on strategic efforts to increase Michigan’s dismal recycling rate, but we fundamentally disagree that the bottle bill is the correct vehicle for reform. We appreciate the sponsors’ efforts to consider our concerns but we cannot support expansion of the law to more beverage containers. The bottle bill already places a burden on an industry that has an average profit margin of only 2 percent. An expansion could lead to the closure of neighborhood grocery stores. Grocers must also ensure they meet food safety standards and sending even more trash back to grocery stores makes that task harder.

We believe that a comprehensive recycling plan is needed to improve Michigan’s 15 percent recycling rate – the worst among the Great Lakes states. We look forward to discussing options such as expanding convenient curbside access, education and one-stop recycling spots for all materials.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11, 2019

Contact: Amy Drumm, adrumm@retailers.com

Michigan Recycling Partnership statement on introduction of HB 5306 and SB 701

LANSING, Mich. – Expanding the bottle deposit law as proposed in HB 5306 and SB 701 to all beverage containers still fails to address 94 percent of recyclable material in Michigan. Michigan’s bottle deposit law currently captures only two percent of possible recyclables, and these bills would expand it to only four percent, at great cost to grocers. A more comprehensive plan is needed.

We appreciate the sponsors’ recognition that recycling fraud poses serious issues for Michigan retailers, union jobs and the state, but we must stop these criminal acts before considering any expansion. The program as it takes the most valuable recyclables – aluminum and PET plastic - out of curbside bins; these materials would provide revenue for communities to offset the cost of community recycling programs. Further reducing these valuable materials with the expansion of the deposit system to nearly all PET plastic beverage containers is even more troubling for the future of community programs. We hope the introduction of this legislation will prompt a serious conversation about the future of recycling in Michigan that looks beyond the bottle deposit law at reforms that will truly make a difference at increasing Michigan’s low overall recycling rate.

###