



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS® OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

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*Carlisle Mosquito*  
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To the Editor:

Two bills pending in the legislature shouldn't get lost in the dust of the ongoing debate over pressing national issues: HB 833 which addresses discarded electronic waste, and HB 3515, a long overdue update of the Bottle Bill.

The world is drowning in growing mounds of trash — much of it toxic — that contaminate air, water, and soil across the globe. This waste is also expensive, costing millions of dollars annually in disposal fees.

HB 833 targets discarded electronic waste by shifting the burden of disposal from towns to manufacturers. Since 2000, 180 municipalities across the state, including Carlisle and Concord, have signed resolutions urging passage of an e-waste bill including extended producer responsibility (EPR). Carlisle alone discards between 30,000-36,000 pounds of electronic waste (CRT's and TV's) annually, at a disposal cost to the town of roughly \$3,000 dollars. Less than 20% of e-waste is recycled, with the remainder clogging landfills or going up in noxious smoke in incinerators. Passage of HB 833 would relieve towns of the cost of e-waste disposal, reduce environmental pollution caused by improper disposal, increase safe recycling of e-waste, and promote responsible product design to reduce waste and use of toxic materials.

HB 3515 seeks to update the 1983 bottle bill to reflect trends in beverage consumption. It expands the range of bottles requiring a nickel deposit to include soft drinks such as water, iced tea, and sports drinks, about 1/3 of the 3.5 billion containers sold in Massachusetts annually. Updating the bottle bill will reduce the millions of bottles that litter our streets, parks and streams and generate an estimated \$20 million dollars in revenue annually — no small change.

Passage of these bills will significantly reduce trash that would otherwise clutter and pollute the environment for generations, bring much needed revenue to state and town coffers, and shift greater responsibility to manufacturers to deal with the impact of their products.

We encourage you to join the Massachusetts LWV in calling and writing state legislators to urge their support of these two important pieces of legislation.

[Senator Susan C. Fargo](mailto:Senator Susan C. Fargo) (617) 722-1572  
[Representative Cory Atkins](mailto:Representative Cory Atkins) (617) 722-2692  
<http://www.massbottlebill.org/ubb/index.htm>

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