



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS® OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

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Ms. Cheryl Lecesse, Editor
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To the Editor:

Two bills pending in the legislature important to the solid waste crisis are: HB833 addressing discarded electronic waste, and HB3515, an update of the Bottle Bill.

HB833 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. The cost to Concord for discarding 60,393 pounds of e-waste at the last two drop-off days, was \$9,611.05. Businesses discarded an additional 14,115 pounds at their own expense. Less than 20% of e-waste is recycled, the remainder clogs landfills or goes up in noxious smoke in incinerators. Passage of HB833 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 reducing waste and use of toxic materials.

HB3515 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 water, iced tea, and sports drinks, roughly 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.

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 LWV in contacting state legislators to urge their support of these two important bills.

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

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