



## **Riverkeeper's 2019 Legislative Memorandum**

### **Support - A.5028a/2129a (Englebright/Kaminsky)- Support**

*AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to returnable bottles; and to amend chapter 58 of the laws of 2013 amending the environmental conservation law and the state finance law relating to the "Cleaner, Greener NY Act of 2013", in relation to the effectiveness thereof*

Riverkeeper strongly supports A.5028a/S.2129a, which would expand New York State's bottle deposit program to include non-carbonated beverages as well as wine and liquor glass bottles.

New York's existing bottle deposit program first enacted in 1982 covers a limited number of carbonated beverages and wine coolers with a 65 percent bottle return rate for currently covered containers.

Compare that to states without bottle deposit programs that report an average 24 percent recycling rate in traditional curbside programs. Lessons from other states with more expansive bottle deposit programs such as Maine report an 84 percent redemption rate, showing that expanding the bottle bill to include more types of beverage bottles will increase recycling rates and reduce the number that ends up polluting our waterways.

DEC estimates New York's existing bottle bill has decreased beverage container litter by 70 percent for bottles currently covered with over 5.1 billion containers recycled. We know this policy works at reducing litter, let's supercharge the bottle bill to protect our waters from plastic pollution.

**Riverkeeper strongly supports A.5028a/2129a (Englebright/Kaminsky)**