

Congresswoman Lynn Rivers

NEWS RELEASE

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Rep. Rivers and Sen. Jeffords Introduce National Bottle Recycling Bill

Washington, DC – Today, Congresswoman Lynn N. Rivers introduced the pro-environment National Beverage Producer Responsibility Act of 2002. Senator Jim Jeffords, Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, has introduced the companion bill in the Senate. Rivers-Jeffords will create new incentives for reuse and recycling of beverage containers and would establish a national 10-cent deposit on recyclable beverage containers.

“Reusable containers are simply not being recycled,” said Rivers. “Over the past nine years, the rate at which recyclable containers have gone to landfills has grown by 40%. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation is a modification of my National Beverage Container Reuse and Recycling Act, which I have introduced in this and previous Congresses. Allowing for a refund on all beverage containers will motivate individuals to clean up the environment.”

Modeled after the highly successful Michigan program that has consistently achieved a 90% recycle rate, the Rivers-Jeffords bottle bill would reduce recyclable waste dramatically. It would also improve on current state programs by making bottled water, juice and tea part of the deposit initiative. This modification is essential, since the sale of non-carbonated bottled beverages has grown by leaps and bounds over the past decade.

“In addition to creating new incentives for reuse and recycling, this legislation would greatly reduce the costs associated with solid waste management and result in significant energy conservation and resource recovery.” Rivers concluded, “It’s the smart thing to do.”

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