To co-chairs Senator Brenner and Representative Gramlich and the distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, we the undersigned redemption center owners are writing to express our support for LD 1909, An Act to Modernize Maine’s Beverage Container Redemption Law, sponsored by Representative Allison Hepler.

We want to thank each of you for your support of our small businesses with your unanimous approval of LD 134. It was crucial for us to get the increased handling fee so that we can continue to support our hardworking employees and keep the Bottle Bill going.

Many of us are unable to take off work and travel to Augusta to speak in support of LD 1909, but we want you to know why this bill is very important to our businesses and the work that redemption centers do to employ people, recycle, reduce litter, and facilitate charitable giving in Maine:

- Maintains the handling fee increase that you just supported in LD 134, and it ties the handling fee amount to inflation so that we no longer have to worry about whether or not we can keep up with the rising costs of rent, utilities, and labor.
- Provides an additional one penny to us for every container that is processed through a reverse vending machine. These are expensive machines, but they help to count containers and reduce storage space. This money is paid for from the unclaimed deposits.
- Provides for the cost of plastic bags, which is a significant expense. This is also paid for from the unclaimed deposits.
- Significantly reduces the tedious sorting so that we only have to sort by material type and size. This makes training new people much easier for us.
- Requires timelier pick-up and payment of containers so that we aren’t waiting so long to be reimbursed for the containers that were redeemed at our businesses and paid the handling fee.

We encourage you to move quickly to pass LD 1909 out of Committee so it can be voted on by the Legislature. Thank you for all the work you are doing to strengthen the Bottle Bill program and protect our small businesses.

Sincerely,

Beth Rowell  
BC Redemption  
Sangerville

Trish Kelly Bouton  
Boots Bounty  
Portland

William Holmes, David Robbins, & Shanda Christopher  
Bottles ‘N Cans, LLC  
Bridgton

Shawn Burdin  
Bwarts Redemption  
Dexter

Ron Conley  
Coastal Discount Beverage & Redemption Inc  
Biddeford

Chris Reynolds  
Cutler Village Redemption  
Cutler

James Damon & Donald Damon  
Damon’s Beverage  
Waterville

Jenny Sharrow  
Dover Redemption  
Dover-Foxcroft

Kent Good  
Florence Avenue Redemption  
Houlton

Peter Welch  
Gasa, LLC d/b/a Forest Avenue Redemption Center  
Portland

Shandra Rubchunuk & Jason Curtis  
Jansel Bottle Redemption  
Winthrop

Justin Hersey  
JJ’s Redemption  
Fort Fairfield

Robert Morgan  
Little River Redemption  
Belfast

Tara Weeks  
MT Bottle Redemption  
Lewiston

Amanda & Tod Roddy  
Roddy’s Redemption  
South China

Brenda Luker  
The Bottle Genie  
Princeton

Jean Collins  
Union Redemption  
Union