

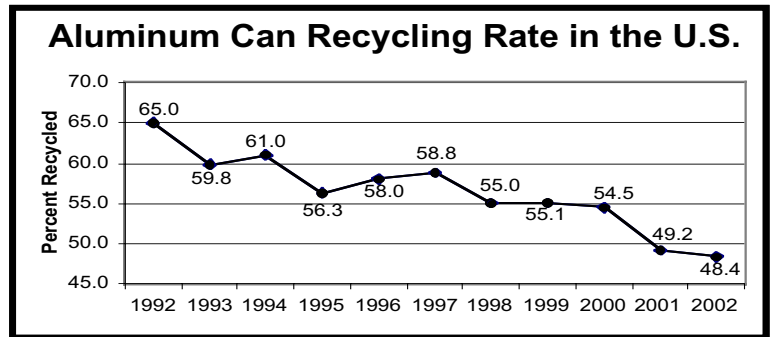
IOWA'S BOTTLE BILL

AN OUTDATED LAW IN 2005

Iowa's bottle deposit law, popularly known as the "Bottle Bill," passed in 1978 and includes all carbonated and alcoholic beverage containers. The Bottle Bill does not reflect the current beverage market.

NATIONAL TREND OF REDUCED RECYCLING

- National aluminum can recycling rate in 1992 **65.0%**^a
- National aluminum can recycling rate in 2002 **48.4%**^a
- Number of times a year we could rebuild our entire commercial airline fleet with the amount of aluminum we throw away as a nation **4**^b
- The demand for PET (a plastic often used for soft drink bottles) has exceeded supply for years, yet fewer PET containers are recycled causing companies that recycle plastic to face hardship.
 - Tons of PET reclaimed nationwide in 2001..... **834**^c
 - Tons of PET reclaimed nationwide in 2002..... **797**^c



CONSUMPTION PATTERNS HAVE CHANGED

Since the Bottle Bill has passed a variety of new beverages, such as sports drinks and bottled water, have been introduced. These beverages were not included in the law as they did not exist in 1978.

- Share of beverage market for "new" products..... **15%**^d

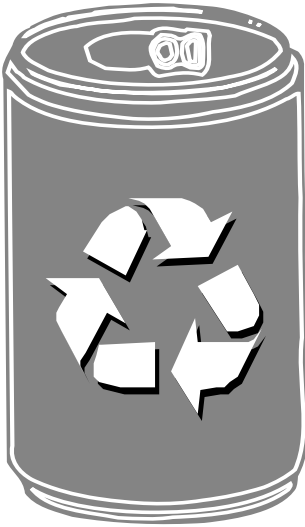
COSTS HAVE GONE UP

- Value of a 1978 dollar today **\$2.94**^e
- To keep pace with inflation the 5-cent deposit would be **nearly 15¢**^e
- To keep pace with inflation the 1-cent handling fee would be..... **nearly 3¢**^e



IOWANS SUPPORT THE LAW – AND SUPPORT EXPANDING IT

- Iowans' support for the deposit law in 1999..... **85.4%**^f
- Iowans' support for the deposit law in 2004..... **90.5%**^g
- Iowans' support for expanding the law to include all beverage containers not currently covered (including water, tea, juice) in 1978 **72%**^f
- Iowans' support for expanding the law to include all beverage containers not currently covered (including water, tea, juice) in 2004 **75.9%**^g



Notes and Sources:

- a. Container Recycling Institute. 2002. "Aluminum Can Recycling Rate (1992-2002)". Graph available at <http://container-recycling.org/documents/UBC2003PressRel6JGgraph.doc>
- b. United States Environmental Protection Agency. n.d. "Aluminum Facts". Available at <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/seahome/housewaste/src/alum.htm>
- c. Container Recycling Institute. 2004. Container and Packaging Recycling Update. Summer/Fall newsletter. Available at http://www.container-recycling.org/documents/CRI%20Newsletter—Summer-2004_new.pdf
- d. Iowa Department of Natural Resources. "Bottle Bill Frequently Asked Questions". Available at <http://www.iowadnr.com/waste/recycling/bottlefaq.html>
- e. You can calculate the rate of inflation for yourself on the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/>
- f. Iowa Recycling Association. 2004. *I! Recycle*. July newsletter. Available at http://www.iowarecycles.org/pdf/Jul_04_IRA.pdf
- g. Lutz, Gene. 2003. "Public Survey Concerning Recycling Beverage Containers". University of Northern Iowa Center for Social and Behavioral Research.

The Iowa Policy Project

Founded in 2000, The Iowa Policy Project is a non-profit, non-partisan research organization based in Mount Vernon, with its principal office in Iowa City. IPP reports cover a wide range of topics of concern to the citizens of Iowa. These reports are made available to the public on the web at www.iowapolicyproject.org <<http://www.iowapolicyproject.org>>. Some also are offered at the website of the Iowa Fiscal Partnership, www.iowafiscal.org <<http://www.iowafiscal.org>>.

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