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Editor

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340 E. Huron

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108

Editor:

The Ecology Center Board of Directors urges all area residents to support the voter initiative that would place the issue of non-returnable beverage containers on the State ballot.

The proposed law, if approved by the state's voters, would require a deposit on all beer and carbonated soft drink containers sold in Michigan. This deposit would be \$10 cents for containers used by only one beverage manufacturer and five cents for containers that can be refilled by more than one manufacturer. "Pull top tabs" on containers would be banned.

The Ecology Center has long supported legislation that would establish a returnable beverage container system. In Michigan, a "return to returnables" would:

1. Save between 4 and 13 trillion BTU's of energy/yr. or the equivalent of approximately 1 million barrels of oil/yr.;
2. Reduce solid waste between 226 and 289 thousand tons/yr;
3. Reduce the \$1.2 million dollars spent on litter clean-up in 1975 (State Highway Commission Chairman Peter Fletcher estimates \$2 million dollars in 1976);
4. Provide a net increase in jobs of 4,100 to 8,100 and a net payroll increase of \$18 to \$36 million dollars/year.

The new law would take effect two years after it is approved by the state's voters. This would give manufacturers time to phase in the use of returnables so as to minimize economic and job disruption.

The Michigan legislature has repeatedly failed to act on legislation banning non-returnables despite overwhelming public support. Thus we feel it is time for citizens to decide this issue by direct ballot.

Your time and efforts are essential. Three hundred thousand signatures must be gathered statewide by June 1 in order to place the issue on the November ballot. Initiative petitions and instruction sheets prepared by Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) are available at the Ecology Center, 417 Detroit St. (Mon. - Fri., noon to 5 p.m., Sat., 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and at the Recycling Station, 2000 S. Industrial Hwy. (Thurs., Fri., and Sat., 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

Sincerely,

Richard Chesbrough
Linda Harrison
John Koerner
Vera Levenson
Robert Potts
Marilyn Thayer
Cynthia Wardell
Lee M. Woodruff
Paul Schrodt