



The key to our heart is bringing friends to the Texas Bottle Bill coalition!

February Texas Bottle Bill Newsletter



OUR NATURAL HERITAGE



After recent rains scenes like this (on the Buffalo Bayou) where common. Bottles get washed up on riverbanks ruining the natural beauty.



This debris (under Houston's Sabine bridge) gets swept downstream to create an ugly and costly mess wherever it lands. Most of these containers will be washed out to the gulf.



Keeping the Grand Canyon clean for all to enjoy means an ongoing battle with litter.

LEGISLATIVE FOCUS

- **GREAT NEWS! The Texas Senate Business and Commerce Committee** has officially been given the following interim charge:

“Study the costs and benefits of *implementing a redeemable deposit program for beverage containers*. Analyze the impact on Texas manufacturing of additional supplies of raw materials generated and any reduction of litter and landfill waste.” ([Full interim charge here.](#))

The Business and Commerce Committee members are as follows:

Chair: *Sen. John Carona*

Vice Chair: *Sen. Chris Harris*

Members: *Sen. Kevin Eltife*

Sen. Craig Estes

Sen. Mike Jackson

Sen. Eddie Lucio, Jr.

Sen. Leticia Van de Putte

Sen. Kirk Watson

Sen. John Whitmire

- **VISITING WITH OFFICIALS**—We had favorable conversations with *Rep. Joan Huffman, Sen. Dan Patrick, Rep. Sara Davis, and Rep. Fletcher*. Now is a good time to visit with your legislator while they are in their local district office. Let them know you would like to see legislation in 2013 supporting refundable deposits on beverage containers.

IN THE NEWS

- **RECENT RAINS DEMONSTRATE POLLUTION PROBLEM**—The Buffalo Bayou was hard hit during the recent rains in Houston. (See pictures on left.) It does NOT have to be like this, but as shown last month in this FOX news story, our bad habit *Trashes Bayou Banks during Downpour*. [Video link](#)
- **GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK BANS SALE OF PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES**—The *National Park Service* plans to ban the sale of plastic water bottles within *Grand Canyon National Park*. This comes despite the concerns raised by *Coca-Cola* (seller of *Dasani* water) which appeared to stall the ban. The new restrictions mirror the rules at other national parks. Park officials said bottles are the biggest source of trash found inside the canyon. ([Story here.](#))
- **THANKS TO OUTDOORS WRITER DAVID SIKES**—“Marine Debris Conference” panelist and outdoor journalist, *David Sikes*, gives a spotlight to the Texas Bottle Bill in his article in the *Corpus Christi Caller*. [Read his story.](#)

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

- **WHAT'S UP?**—The *Texas Bottle Bill* team is interested in what you have to say. Stay in touch on [Facebook](#) or our [webpage](#). We also hope you are sharing your thoughts about us with your friends and family. Your voice can go a long way to building our coalition and ensuring a cleaner Texas! The following is an essay from a long time refundable deposit recycling advocate.

◆ [OPINION PIECE BY ADVOCATE PATSY GILLHAM](#)

February Texas Bottle Bill Newsletter, *continued*

SPREAD THE NEWS



Good News! A new study, called "Returning to Work," demonstrates recycling based on refundable deposits collects more containers and creates lots of jobs.

IMPROVE RECYCLING EFFORTS FOR A BETTER TEXAS

Show your support for a Beverage Container Deposit system today!

Tell the Texas Legislature to enact a beverage container deposit system in Texas which:

- Creates a financial incentive to remove litter from our local communities by offering a 5-cent redemption on individual plastic, glass and aluminum containers when recycled.
- Supplements existing curbside and other recycling programs.
- Creates recycling jobs and keeps collected revenue in the local community.
- Lowers the pressure on taxpayers to pay the cost of improperly discarded

www.TexasBottleBill.com

Our ad in the *Texas Outdoors Journal* encourages anglers and hunters to support refundable deposits.

KEEP IN TOUCH



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REPORTS & CONFERENCES

- **MARINE DEBRIS CONFERENCE**—The General Land Office's "Marine Debris Conference" last month in Galveston noted that both GLO and TxDOT find beverage containers on their top 10 litter lists. How bad is it? Last September's "Adopt-A-Beach Program" picked up 34,605 beverage containers from 180 miles of shoreline. (Approx. 192 containers per mile.) A previous TxDOT study showed beverage containers made up 29% of the 1 billion items they picked up. 75% of these containers would disappear with a deposit refund system. [Help solve this scourge - sign the petition.](#)
- **GOT JOBS? BOTTLE BILL STATES DO!**—One of the benefits of refundable deposits is job creation. A highly researched 2011 study, "Returning to Work: Understanding the Jobs Impacts From Different Methods of Recycling Beverage Containers," details the job creation benefits of deposit refund systems. The [full report is here](#), but in short, the study reports that deposit return systems created vastly more job than curbside collection due to the higher volume of beverage containers collected with refunds. Two commentaries follow:
 - ♦ **NÉSTLE WATERS RESPONDS TO REPORT**—The above study drew strong comments from Nestle. See "[Jobs report lacks big thinking.](#)"
 - ♦ **CRI RESPONDS TO NÉSTLE**—In response, the *Container Recycling Institute* noted that "[Nestlé short-sighted about bottle deposits.](#)"
- **SEE TEXAS BOTTLE BILL AD IN MAGAZINES**—We placed an ad in two publications: the *Texas Outdoors Journal* and the *Texas County Directory*. These publications reach key demographics in our cause. (Ad shown at left.)

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NOW?

BE OUR VALENTINE!—Access our NEW Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/TexasBottleBill) and "like us." It's the easiest way to see our latest pictures and info. Or, if you prefer, go straight to our web site (www.TexasBottleBill.com) and sign the [Bottle Bill petition!](#) That is a sure fire way to our heart! (The QR graphic on right links to our petition.)



MEET THE TEXAS BOTTLE BILL TEAM

- **February 9**—*Citizens' Environmental Coalition* hosts "Visions for a Greener Houston." Our team will be there to discuss waste and recycling. [Event info.](#)
- **March 8**—The [Houston Sierra Club](#) will include the Texas Bottle Bill team will presenting an overview of the refundable deposit recycle system.
- **March 10**—*Buffalo Bayou Partnership* sponsors Texas' largest canoe and kayak race. Plan on joining a day of fun for all ages, [click here.](#)

The key to our heart? Easy! Share the Texas Bottle Bill petition with your friends!



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

