



Citizen comments

Compiled comments received by e-mail from Minnesota citizens. (Sorted alphabetically)

Bonnie Baysinger (Martin County)

This is one of the great ideas our state is thinking of doing? We already recycle in Martin county and don't need another "tax" on our products. Thanks for another reason our state is getting too expensive to live in.

Isaac Hanson (Minneapolis, Minn.)

Please count my email in support of a container-deposit law. The MPCA's report was very detailed and made clear that although such a program would cause major changes to the state's recycling companies, the ultimate effect would be to increase recycling rates from 45% to 84%, which would be extremely beneficial to the state's people and environment.

J.R. Huntley

I don't know who thinks up these so called flawed numbers of it's only going to cost \$29 million, really? I have relatives who live in northern Ia and say's anything but good about their program. 30 miles to take to a redemption center and how much will that cost you in gas? The hassle alone of no dents in cans must be clean, another cost for water usage, waste of water alone to wash them out. I have read the article in our local news paper \$179 Million required annually to run! what happened to the \$ 29 million at the start of this? Takes a lot more than just thinking about a program like this. Us Americans are already hurting in the financial area. Have you thought about those who don't drive? Probable not, I could just see a bus or taxi saying no you can't bring those along. Law makers must have nothing better to do than dream up a way to put further burden on the American people. Oh and that transportation cost is also estimated at \$ 40 Million what happened to the \$29 million? 400 locations are not even enough unless you are having people drive out of town (like places in Iowa) to take there containers to a place that will collect them. Another \$6.00 hr job with no benefits. Gee I wounder what they will do with all that is used for big energy plants that burn most of what the haulers pick up? I have even heard in this area how much recycled materiel is burnt up instead of BEING RECYCLED. So I guess if if the state of Mn feels they really need to do this and put the burden on those who don't have a voice so be it but when it's implemented and it fails back on to state, I'm sure there would be a cover up or someone got there figures mixed up. I wish The United States would listen to the people instead of the law makers (that are a hand full at most) thinking they have the best answers. What ever the states decision I just hope it's well thought though and look at the real "numbers" of what the total cost would (will) be. I recycle everything I can, as it does cut down on my garbage cost. but I do see those with money to burn not recycling and thats what will happen also with a Dime on containers. Thank you for seeing my view on this it"s hard when your disabled to find the money for things you really need. and then have to spend more to return it to get your money back.

Mike Menzel, MD (Edina, Minn.)

Dear MPCA: I attended the analysis hearing on January 13, 2014 in St. Paul. The analysis mentioned the environmental costs of not recycling but the report stopped short of placing an economic cost on this. This needs to be included in the analysis since these costs are real and would significantly affect the revenue side in a positive manner.

If the MPCA does not have these numbers then they can consult other non-profits like Conservation Minnesota for their input.

Mary Nielsen (Martin County)

In Martin county we have a recycle system that provides each household with a bin in which we put cardboard, newspapers, plastic, aluminum, tin and glass. Our bins are picked up twice a month, at the end of our driveways. I would hate to see this system changed. I am a senior and it would be difficult for me to load up recycle materials and transport it to another site.

Please do not change our system. I do not support the bottle refund system. Would you consider recycling the way Martin Co. does??

Claire Robling (Jordan, Minn.)

I believe implementing this plan will set back other recycling efforts. Right now I am able to throw all of my recyclable items – from cardboard and newspaper to tin and aluminum cans and plastic bottles -- into one big bin that is picked up every other week. This is extremely convenient and I am a masterful recycler – even recycling the cardboard on the inside of the toilet paper rolls! It's so easy with this system, and it should be encouraged statewide. Certainly, it would bring up recycling rates if every hauler had this available for their customers. Currently, my recycling bin (which is larger than my garbage bin) is always full or overflowing on my recycling days, and my garbage is minimal.

If we have to pull out all the recyclable beverage containers and then take them to a distant recycling center (could be just one per county of 15,000), a lot of containers will still get thrown in the trash or they'll sit and clutter up our garages for months or years before they are hauled in. And what about those people who don't even have garages or a convenient place to store them until they get a load to haul in for their refund? Who thinks this will work out well? Also, I think people in my area are more likely to throw their other recyclables in the trash if they have to go back to sorting.

This is NOT a good idea.

Please do not promote it. I think it would be a big burden if it is adopted.

Thank you for listening.