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CONTACT: Gene Pierce, 614.395.6480

**Deceptive “Bottle Bill” Is Expensive, Unnecessary Tax;**  
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, Ohio Grocers Association and Ohio Restaurant Association  
**Oppose Proposed Constitutional Amendment**

(Columbus, October 17, 2014) Ohio business leaders announced their opposition to a proposed constitutional amendment that would impose a 5 to 10 cent deposit on “all closed glass, metal and plastic containers” and fines up to \$100,000 for non-compliance. The issue came before the Ohio Ballot Board today for approval to circulate petitions to place the matter on a statewide ballot.

“This is an expensive, unnecessary tax hike, not a ‘bottle bill’,” said Gordon Gough, President and CEO of the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants. “It’s a new tax on every product sold in a closed glass, metal or plastic container in Ohio--everything from milk and medicine to motor oil. To simply call it a ‘bottle bill’ is false and misleading as it covers thousands of other items sold in Ohio retail stores.

“Ohioans already recycle millions of tons of materials through voluntary programs, and Ohio counties and solid waste districts also have at-the-gate systems that keep recyclables out of landfills,” said Gough, “so there’s no valid reason to impose increased costs, bureaucratic overhead and penalties.”

“The cost of this proposal would put Ohio employers at a disadvantage to their competitors in the Midwest and across the country,” added Geoff Hetrick, Ohio Restaurant Association President and CEO. “A container deposit law would be damaging to Ohio’s economic recovery and would definitely hurt the restaurant industry. Profit margins are already razor thin but misguided efforts such as this would substantially increase operators’ cost of doing business and lead to layoffs across all sectors of the industry.”

“This ballot proposal is counter-productive to the recycling and sustainability efforts already underway by businesses across Ohio,” stated Nate Filler, President/CEO of the Ohio Grocers Association. “Our association is vehemently opposed to this proposal which burdens businesses and consumers and provides no proven value to recycling efforts.”

According to Filler, the average supermarket has over 40,000 items, meaning 90% of the items in the grocery aisle would likely be subject to this additional new fee. “If enacted, food bills would increase dramatically at a time when Ohioans can least afford it.”

These associations represent thousands of businesses across Ohio, whose industries employ one in four Ohio workers and interact with millions of Ohio consumers every day.

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