



DELAWARE  
NATURE  
SOCIETY



**DELAWARE AUDUBON SOCIETY**

**DELAWARE NATURE SOCIETY**

May 2, 2005

Lee Ann Walling, Policy Advisor  
Office of the Governor  
Tatnall Building  
Dover, Delaware 19901

Dear Lee Ann:

At the last quarterly meeting of environmental groups, we spent a considerable amount of time discussing issues related to the development of a curbside recycling program for the state. We believe it's fair to say that Delaware lags far behind many other states in the amount of waste diverted or recycled from the wastestream. The state's bottle bill does not even require a proper accounting of deposit receipts and redemptions, which results in a huge annual windfall to wholesalers estimated to be as much as \$5 million.

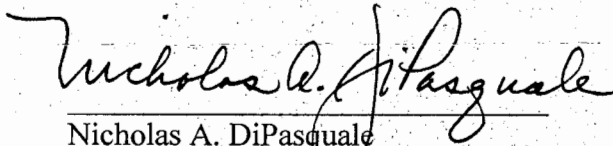
The Recycling Public Advisory Committee (RPAC) has dedicated many hours of effort to developing a compromise piece of legislation. While their efforts are to be highly commended, the bill is flawed in many respects and its chances for enactment are slim. We have prepared a listing of what we consider to be essential elements for an effective curbside recycling bill. The development of this set of essential elements was guided by a desire to minimize cost increases to the general public, to end the windfall to wholesalers from unclaimed bottle deposits, to rationalize and make more efficient the collection of residential solid waste, and, to use economic incentives so households will benefit economically from greater recycling.

Although we would support greater efforts to design products for recycling and to reduce product packaging, Delaware's small population does not give us much clout with manufacturers, retailers or the food service industry. These issues are best left to organizations operating at the national or international level.

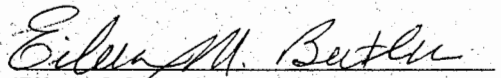
Lee Ann Walling  
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We would greatly appreciate your consideration of these "essential elements" as you attempt to develop a legislative proposal for curbside recycling. We are available to discuss this issue in greater detail and to support your efforts in encouraging the General Assembly to enact this important piece of legislation.

Most sincerely,



Nicholas A. DiPasquale  
Conservation Chair  
Delaware Audubon



Eileen M. Butler  
Environmental Advocate  
Delaware Nature Society

Enclosure

pc: Paul Wilkinson, Chair, RPAC (w/enclosure)