



New York State Conference of Teamsters

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Senate Bill: 237B May | Assembly Bill: 6353 Glick

April 15, 2024

Dear Senators and Assemblymembers:

The New York State Conference of Teamsters urges you to oppose S. 237B/A. 6353, offered by Senator May and Assemblymember Glick. The Teamsters have strong concerns about the impact that the proposed legislation would have on workers and consumers throughout our state.

Together, Teamsters Joint Councils 16, 18, and 46 represent more than 80,000 working men, women, and their families across the Empire State. Among them are many thousands of workers who produce, bottle, package, and deliver beer, soda, fruit and vegetable juices, milk, coffee, tea, and other beverages; jobs that provide these New Yorkers with steady employment. Because of their Teamster-negotiated contracts, these members are able to put food on the table for their families, they receive company-paid health insurance, and have retirement security in defined benefit pension plans. Our members are active in their communities, and are able to lead fulfilling lives because of their jobs. As a union, we must take any proposal that could impact their job security as a serious threat.

We also believe that this proposal will have a negative impact on consumers – one that will disproportionately impact the grocery bills of the very families who can least afford an increase in costs. At a time where every consumer is dealing with the inflation brought on by a global pandemic and challenges across the world's supply chain, a proposal that would increase the cost of filling a family's grocery cart should be dismissed. These price increases would be felt more acutely by lower income families.

We understand that there are challenges in the recycling system, and agree that we should be making it easier to return eligible bottles and cans, but an increased fee that would result in sharp price increases and potentially depress sales and reduce job opportunities is not the path that we should take. On behalf of the men and women represented by Joint Councils 16, 18, and 46, and in the interest of all working families in New York, we urge you to oppose S. 237B/A. 6353.

Sincerely,

Thomas Gesualdi
President
Teamsters Joint Council 16

Thomas Quackenbush
President
Teamsters Joint Council 18

Jeffrey Brylski
President
Teamsters Joint Council 46