

Congresswoman Lynn Rivers

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January 25, 2002

Policy Outlined in Rivers' 'Bottle Bill' Would Result in Highest Return, Shows Recent Study

Washington, DC – A study released last week by the Businesses and Environmentalists Allied for Recycling (BEAR) found that a deposit system of recovery for recyclable beverage containers, like that found in the National Beverage Container Reuse and Recycling Act of 2001, sponsored by Rep. Lynn Rivers, would produce the greatest return of any recovery system.

“One only has to look around to see that many reusable containers are simply not being recycled,” said Rivers. “Over the past eight years, the rate at which recyclable containers have gone to the landfill has grown by 40%. A national system of refunds on all beverage containers would increase recycling and limit the environmental impact of current disposables. It would also lessen the financial burden of waste management for cash-strapped municipalities,” said Rivers.

The BEAR study found that the recovery rate for states using a deposit system was 79% compared to 29% for non-participating states. “At election time, everyone in Congress is an environmentalist,” observed Rivers. “This bill is the walk to match that talk.”