

The Diplomats  
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Mrs. Alison Kingswood Coach  
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Dear Governor Haley,

We are Robotics Team 3167, The Diplomates from Oakridge Middle School in Clover. Each year we participate in a worldwide competition hosted by First Robotics. This year's theme is Recycling. As part of the competition we are challenged to present our idea to improve and or share a new way to help reduce waste.

Our idea is to encourage people in South Carolina to recycle drink containers. We have talked to people in our area and found that a many people don't recycle because there is no incentive and it is inconvenient in more rural areas.

We think the best way to encourage people is to introduce a Bottle Bill. The Bill would put a cash deposit on all glass drinking containers, every time a bottle is returned the person will receive a refund.

Our main idea is to have a recycling truck fitted with a reverse vending machine. Each customer would have a barcoded container that they would put their empty drink containers in. Once a week the truck would come and collect the container. Before putting the items in the machine they would scan the bar code. This would then let the machine sort and weigh the content. Aluminum would go to one unit, glass to another and plastics to a final one. The machine would work out the weight of the aluminum and the number of glass bottles and would then calculate the refund for that customer. A check would be sent to each customer every 4 months. This would cut down on postage and paper use.

As you can imagine this is purely theoretical, but the Bottle Bill would help South Carolina right now as it would reduce the amount of bottles being thrown away and ending up in landfills, It would also increase the amount of recycling we as a state would do. We have discovered that 10 States have already introduced a similar bill and have seen their recycling rate improve dramatically. This would also allow for new jobs to be created in South Carolina.

We would really love for our state to introduce our own Bottle Bill to help encourage people to recycle and would love your help in doing so.

Thank you for your time

Team 3167

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