



Truck Drivers Local Union No. 449

AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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May 9, 2024

Dear Senators and Assemblymembers:

Teamsters Local 449 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.

Teamsters Local 449 represents approximately 3,000 working men and women in many different crafts in the greater Buffalo, New York area. A portion of our members are involved in the distribution of wine and spirits to liquor stores, bars, and restaurants. Because of Teamster negotiated contracts, these members are able to provide for their families, receive affordable health insurance, and have a safe and secure retirement benefit. As a union, we take proposals that could impact our members job security as a major threat.

This proposal would expand the products included in the bottle bill to include a vast array of products such as fruit and vegetable drinks, coffee and tea, cider, wine, liquor and many others. In addition, the proposal would substantially increase the handling fee and the double the deposit. All of the major changes to the bottle bill will create increases in cost to the manufacturers, distributors and retailers of these products resulting in an increased cost to the consumer. At a time when a significant number of New York residents are struggling to afford their grocery bills, this proposal would add to the cost of these products.

We understand that there are issues in the recycling system, and we agree that we should make it easier to return cans and bottles, but increasing fees would result in price increases and potential loss in sales, which ultimately results in less job opportunities. Teamsters Local 449 urges you to oppose S. 237B/A. 6353.

Sincerely,

Casey Shreve
Business Agent/Trustee
Teamsters Local 449

