



January 11, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Byron
Chair, House Commerce and Energy Committee
Virginia House of Delegates
1000 Bank Street
Pocahontas Building
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill 1430

Dear Chair Byron & Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI), I am pleased to provide testimony in strong support of **HB 1430**, legislation that would establish and create a pilot program to exempt non bypassable electricity charges to energy-intensive-trade-exposed (EITE) industries.

GPI is the North American trade association for the glass food and beverage manufacturing companies, glass recycling processors, raw material providers and other supply chain partners within the industry.

The industry operates two glass container manufacturing plants in Virginia – **O-I Glass in Toano** (greater Williamsburg area) and **O-I Glass in Ringgold** (greater Danville area). These plants collectively produce millions of glass bottles and jars daily in support of nearby food and beverage customers, employing over 300 men and women in high-paying, benefits-provided careers.

Both of these facilities, alongside all other domestic glass container manufacturing plants have long been considered and included as EITEs, via statute in state laws and in numerous energy bills considered by the U.S. Congress. EITEs regularly compete with lesser regulated manufacturing industries around the world, and in the case of glass containers, these plants frequently have much higher greenhouse gas emissions and energy use than those in Virginia and across the U.S.

The pilot program developed by the legislation would allow the covered glass container facilities to invest resources to further lowering their greenhouse gas emissions and energy use. Electricity costs on a per kWh basis have continued to rise throughout the Commonwealth, with double digit increases anticipated by the electricity providers' own internal estimates.

Providing limited bypass rate relief through the pilot program will support our two in-state glass plants and workforce, and the same time, reduce air emissions throughout the state.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge you to vote Yes on HB 1430.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott DeFife". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Scott DeFife
President