January 22, 2019

The Honorable Michael J. Barrett, Senate Chair

The Honorable Thomas A. Golden, Jr., House Chair

Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

Massachusetts State House

Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Barrett and Chairman Golden,

I am writing to encourage the Committee to affirm the Commonwealth’s commitment to a clean environment by supporting the favorable passage of ***S452 and H2881 An Act Relative to the Proper Disposal of Miniatures***.

I do not have to tell you – and you will hear it over and over today – that nip bottles are an environmental scourge. They fill our parks and playgrounds, litter beaches, lakes and rivers, wooded areas, and the sides of busy streets alike in big cities and small towns across the Commonwealth.

In my role as Senate Chair of Tourism, Arts & Cultural Development, I work with the hospitality industry, art and cultural sectors to boost tourism to the great historic, cultural, and culinary destinations the Commonwealth has to offer. Part of being attractive to visitors is cleanliness.

How do we clean up our streets, beaches and parks? Give people the financial incentive to pick up those nip bottles or not to toss them in the first place, the same way we curbed soda and beer can litter.

We should follow the lead of our friends to the north in Maine – after all according to their motto it is “The Way Life Should Be” – and add nip bottles to our bottle bill, turning trash into cash.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Kennedy
State Senator
First Middlesex District