

What's **WRONG** with New York's Bottle Bill?



New York Federation of Solid Waste Associations
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Pat Franklin, Executive Director
Container Recycling Institute



What's **RIGHT** with New York's Bottle Bill?

Since 1982 ...



More than 70 billion beer and soft drink containers have been redeemed in New York State

Litter and waste reduction benefits ...



Litter: Beverage container litter reduced by **70-80%** and overall litter reduced by **30%** after the bottle bill was implemented



Waste Diversion: **5 million tons** of glass, aluminum, and plastic diverted from landfills

Other Environmental Benefits ...



Greenhouse gas emissions: reduced by an estimated 4 million tons



Energy: saved the equivalent of 25 million barrels of oil, enough to provide electricity to all of the homes in New York City for one year.

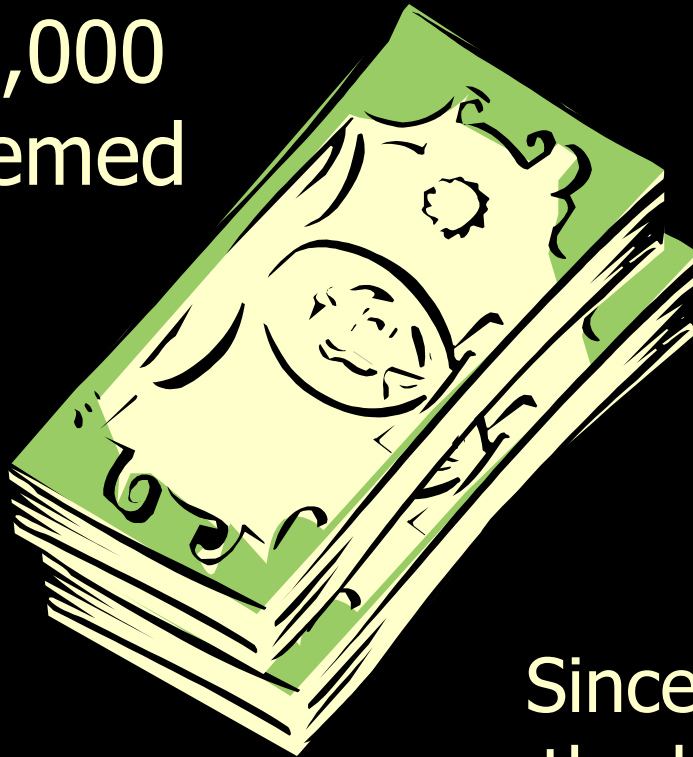
Economic Benefits ...



- ✓ **Jobs**: net gain, attributable to bottle bill, of between 4,317 – 5,079 jobs in the first year
- ✓ **Tax savings**: Savings to taxpayers of an estimated \$300 million in landfill tipping fees

Benefits to bottlers and distributors

1,000,000,000
in unredeemed
deposits



Since implementation of
the bottle bill.

What's **wrong** with New York's bottle bill?

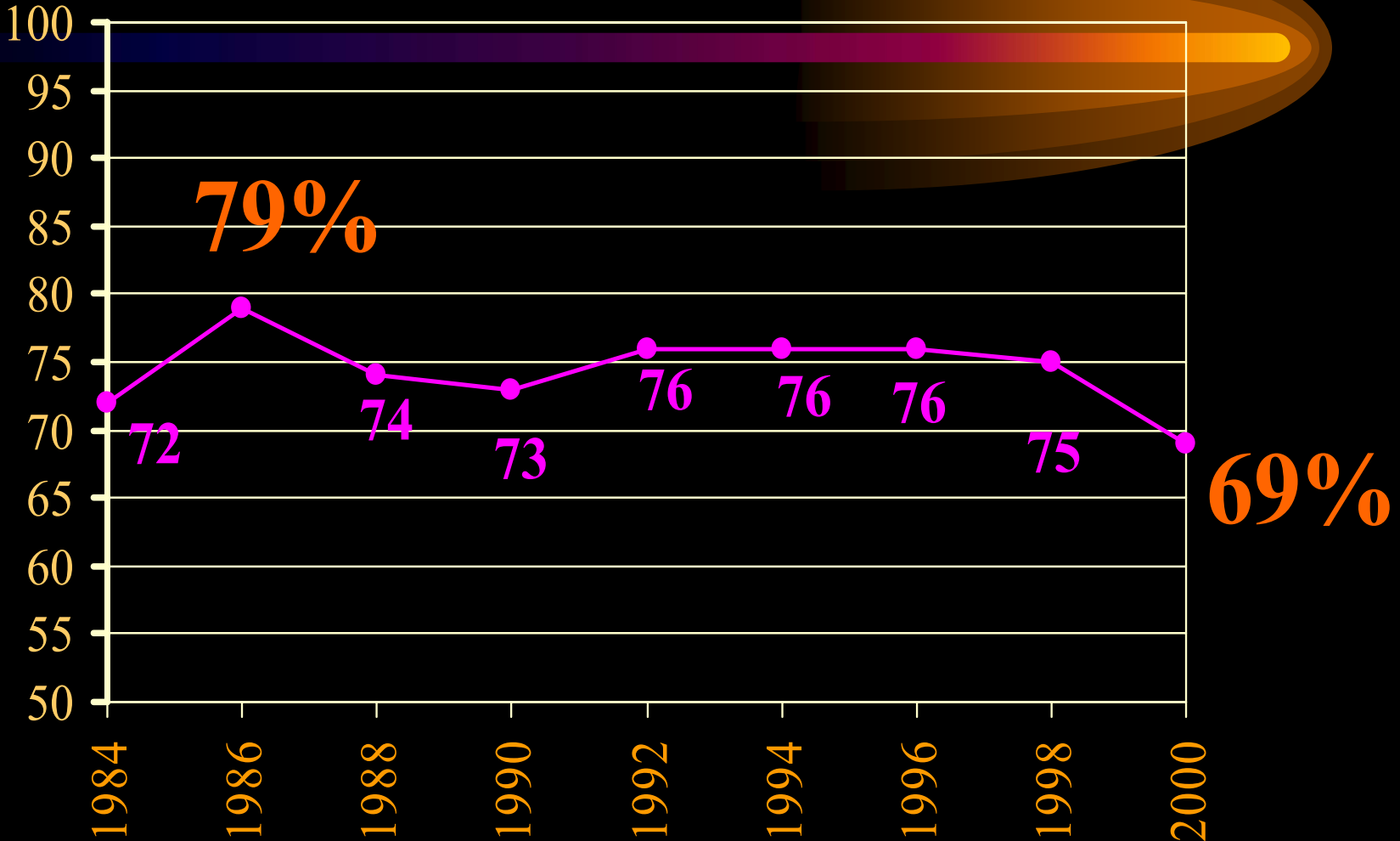


New York's bottle bill is out of date.

- Deposit is not high enough
- Non-carbonated beverages are exempt from the law

Deposit Container Redemption Rate (1984-2001)

Percent

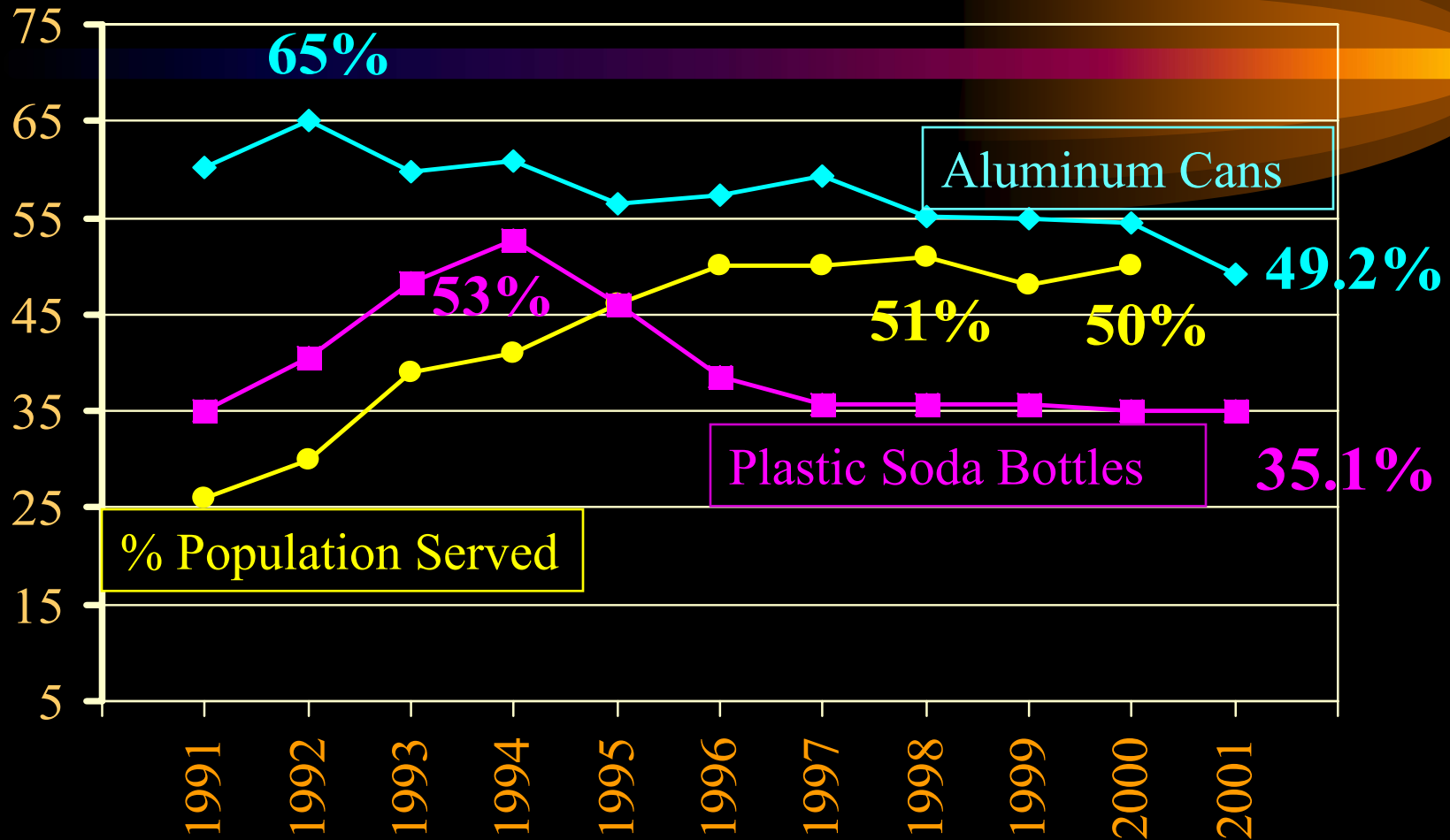


Source: New York Department of Conservation

Container Recycling Institute c 2003

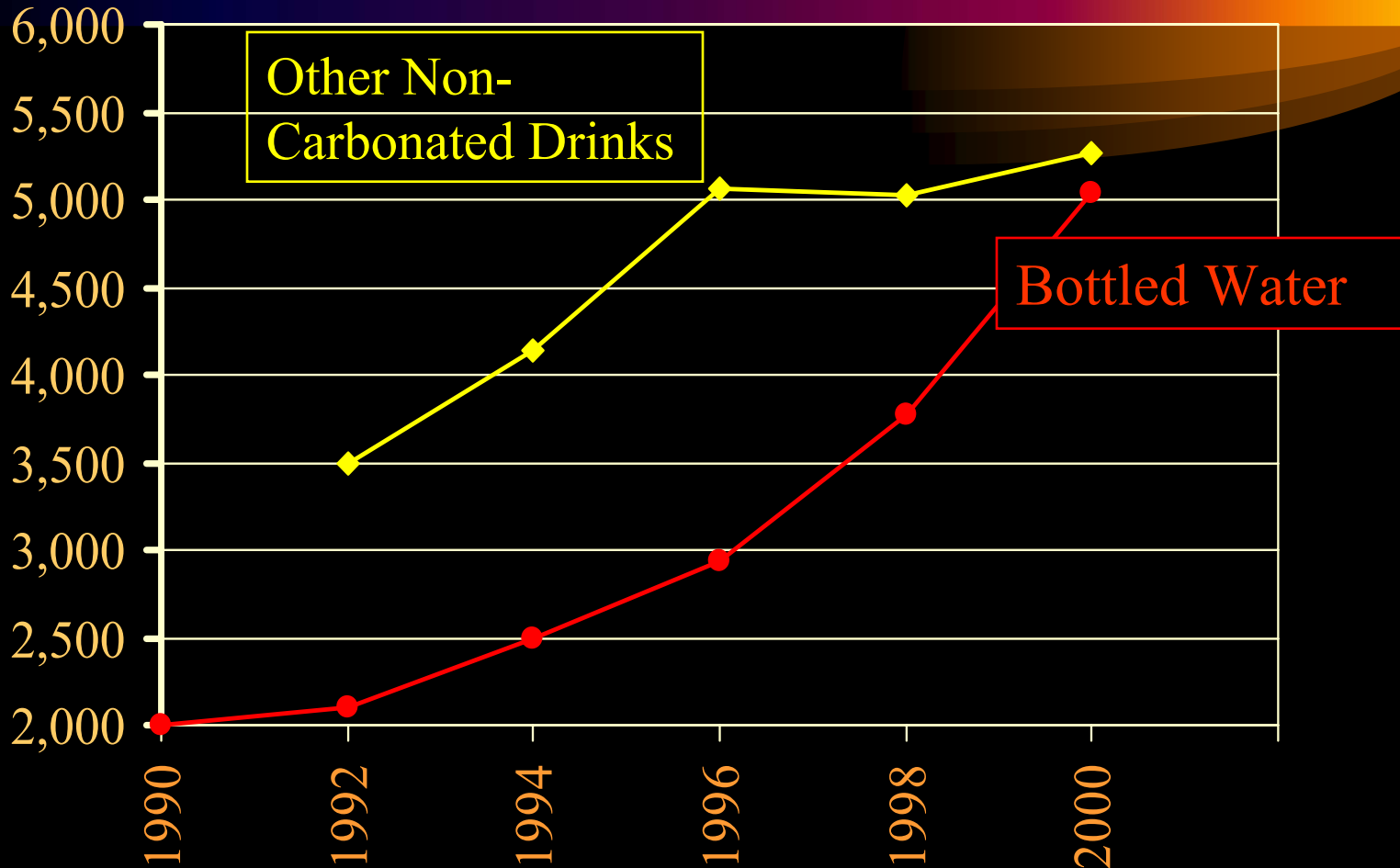
Recycling Rates and Population Served by Curbside Recycling (1990-2001)

Percent




Growth of Non-Carbonated Beverages in U.S. (1990-2000)

Gallons




Source: Beverage World

Container Recycling Institute c 2003



"Expansion is necessary. . .the popular non-carbonated products are being consumed out of the home and on the road. . .OCCRA sees an opportunity to save money from the handling of fewer recyclables and cutting down on litter.

Andrew Radin, Recycling Director
Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency

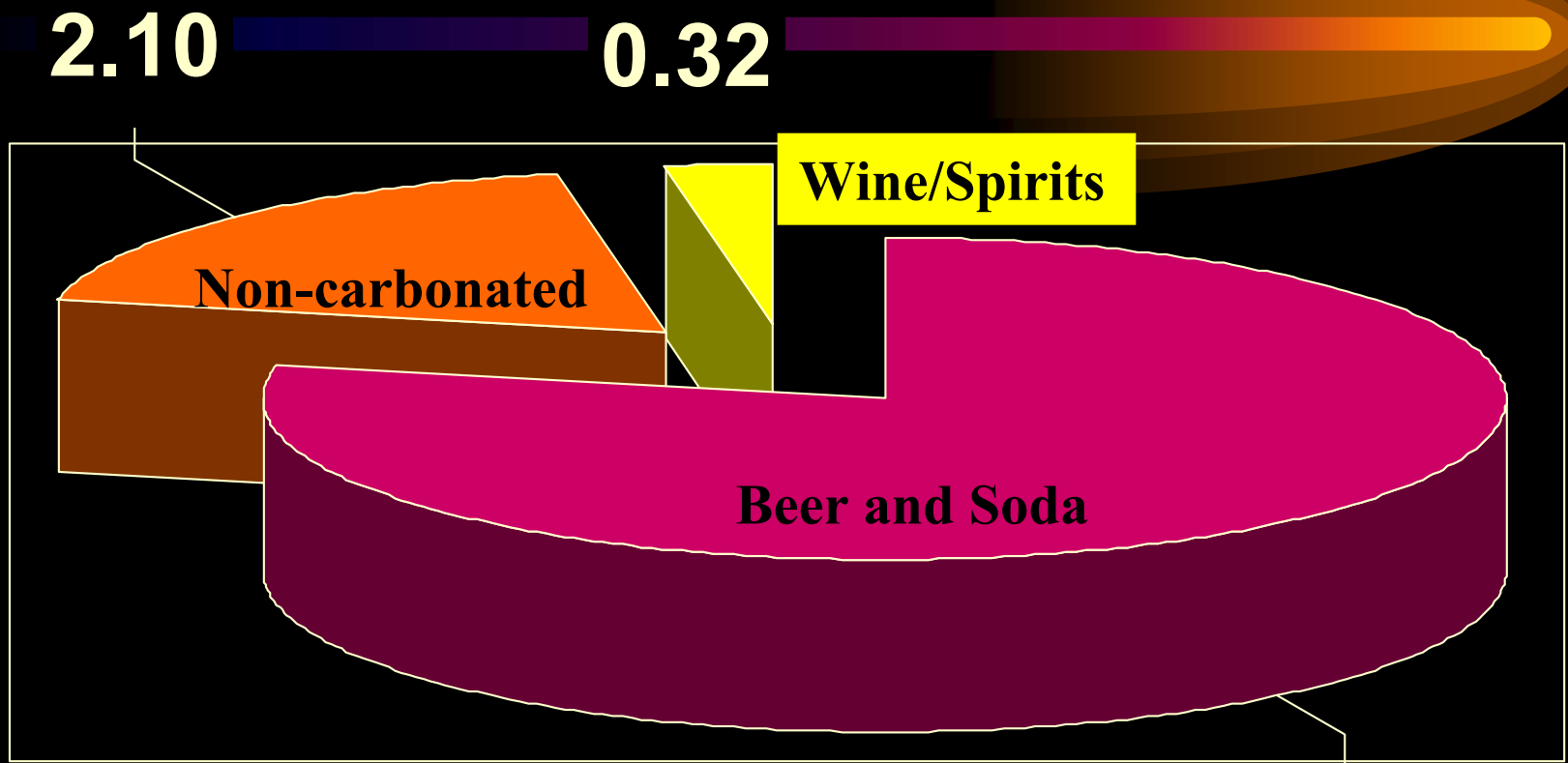


“ . . . deposit container programs. . . divert a considerable amount of material and related handling costs out of the hands of municipal collection programs. . . It also removes high-volume plastic soda bottles which reduces curbside collection costs.”

James Hogan, Recycling Coordinator
Westchester County, New York

NYS Beverage Market by Beverage Type

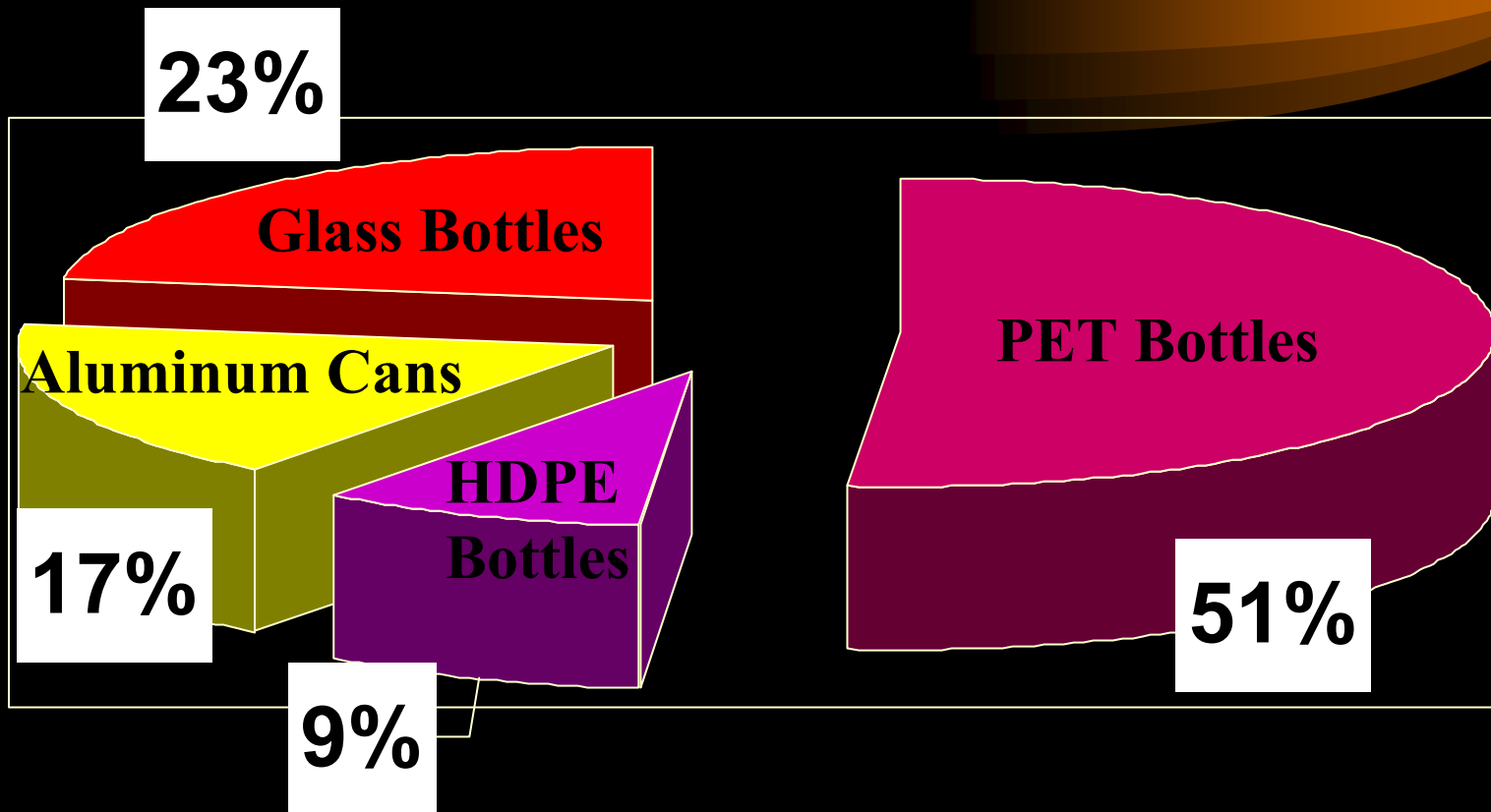
(billions of units)



Source: Beverage Marketing Corporation, Beverage World

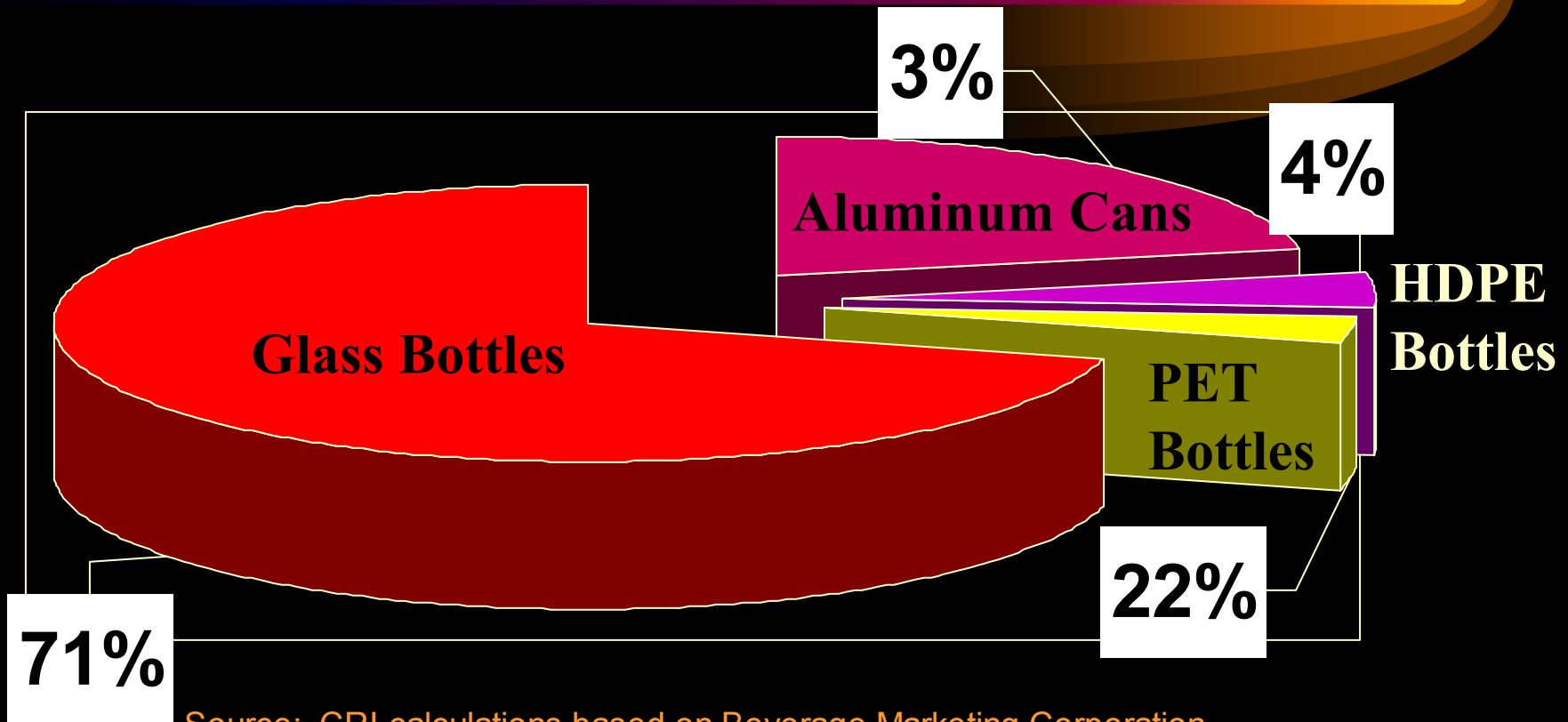
8.79

NYS Non-Carbonated Beverage Market by Container Type (in units)



Source: Beverage Marketing Corporation, Beverage World

NYS Non-Carbonated Beverage Market by Container Type (by weight)

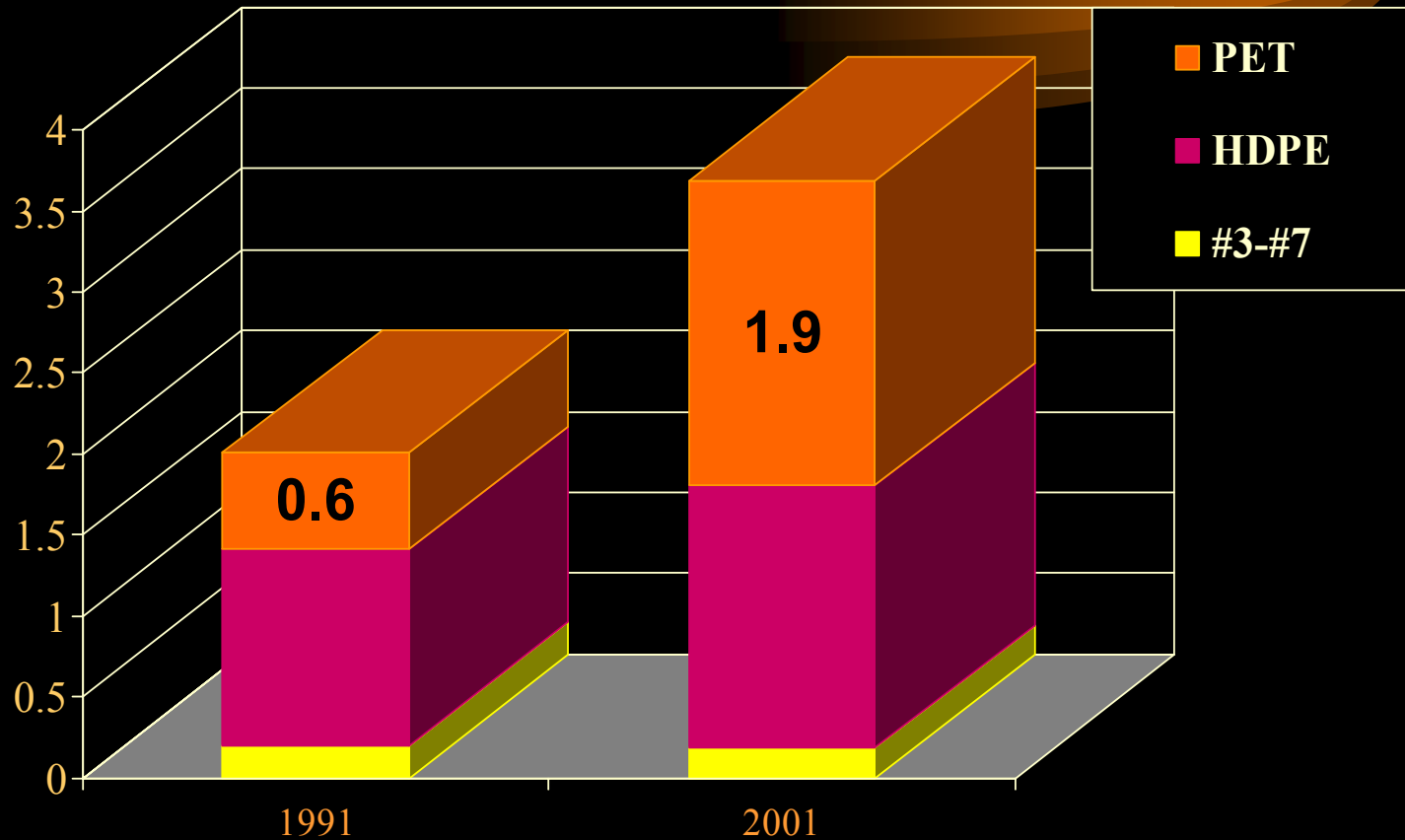


Source: CRI calculations based on Beverage Marketing Corporation

Growth in Plastic Bottle Sales (U.S.)

1991 - 2001

Millions of tons



Source: American Plastics Council

Collecting Plastic Bottles: High volume-to-weight ratio

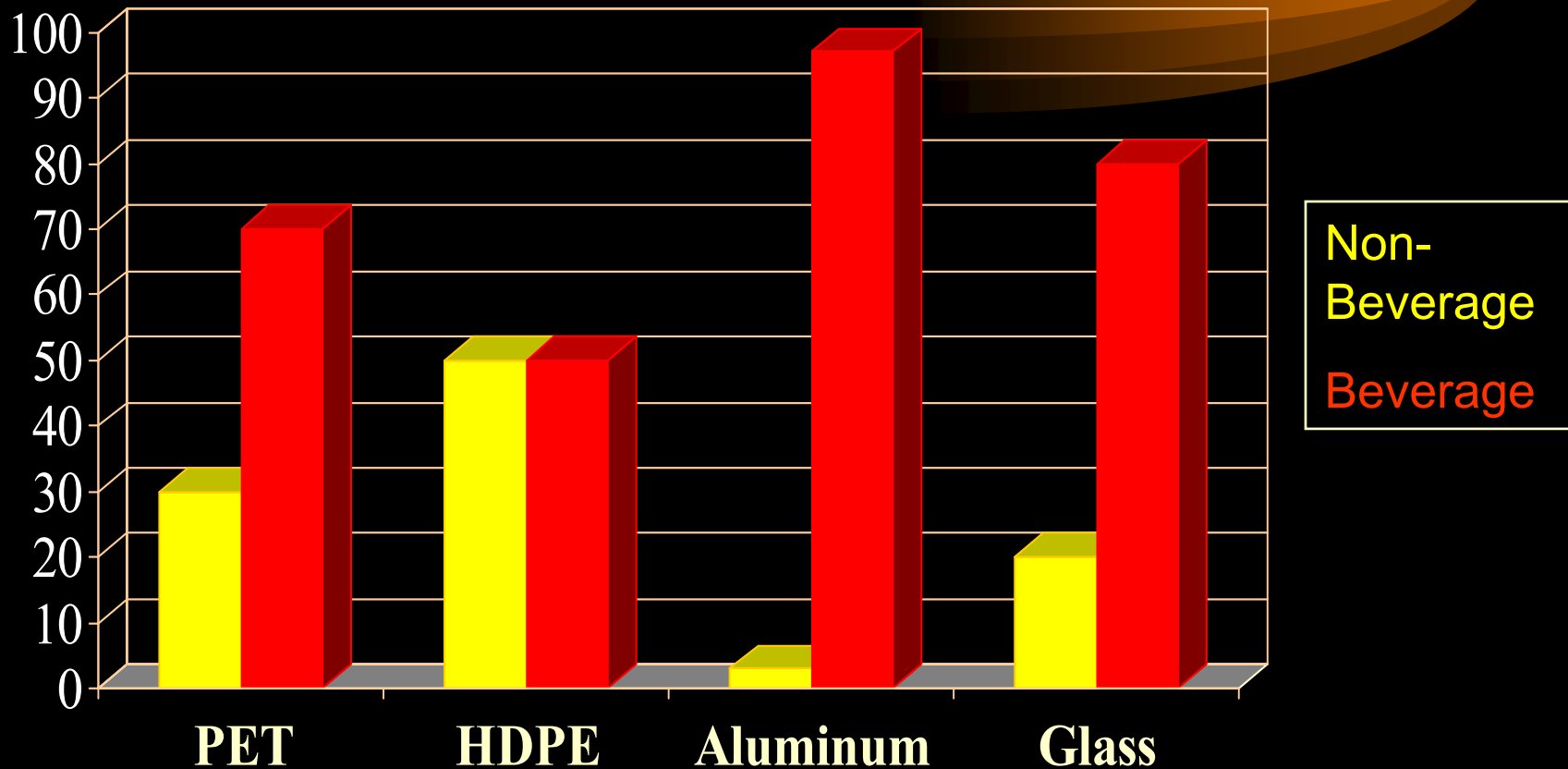


- 2,400 lbs of crushed **glass bottles** = 1.1 cubic yds
- 2,400 lbs of crushed **aluminum cans** = 7.6 cubic yds
- 2,400 lbs of crushed **plastic bottles** = 8.9 cubic yds

Source: Measuring Recycling: A Guide for State and Local Governments, p. 59, 61, USEPA, September 1997.

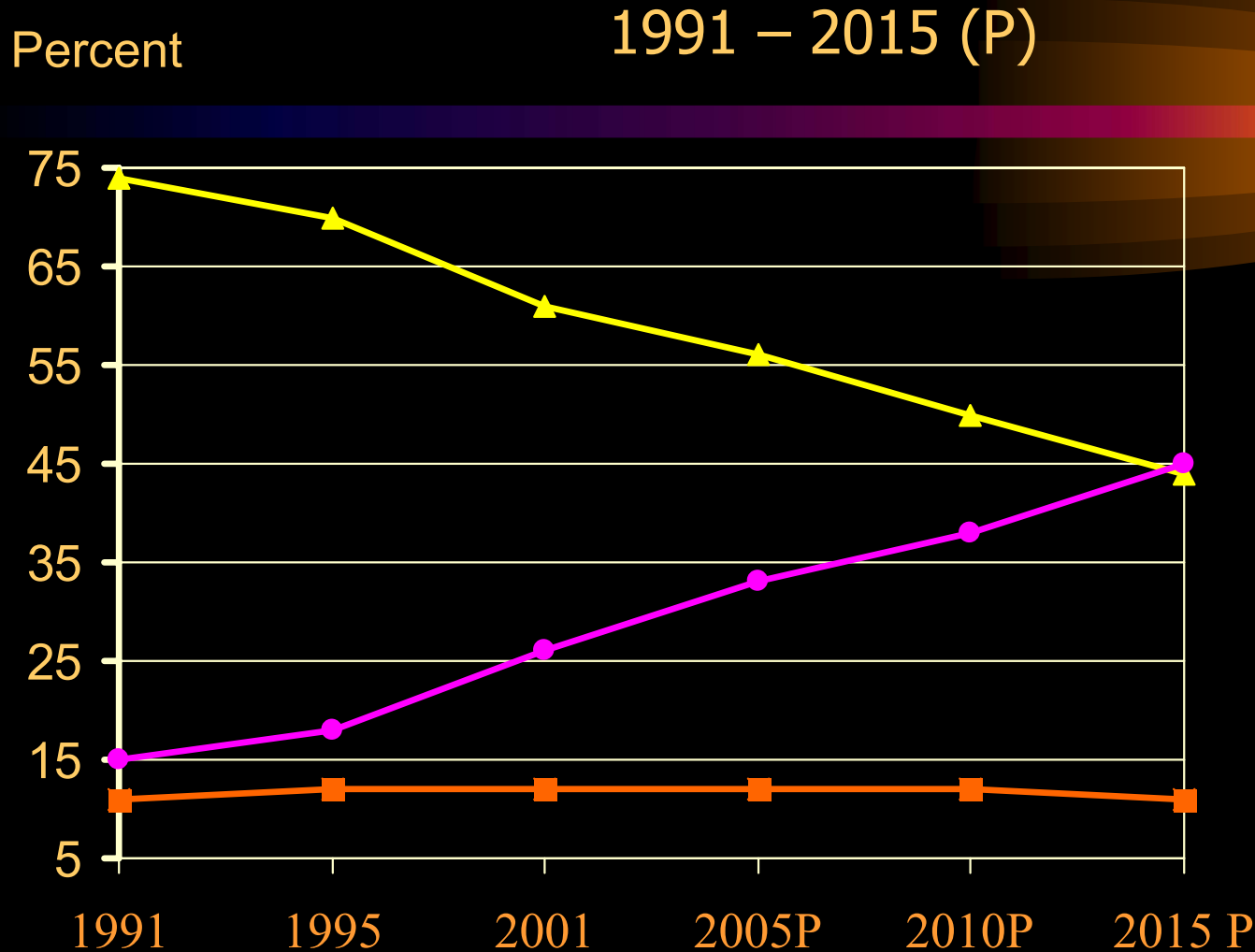
Containers in the Waste Stream

Percent




Source: CRI calculations based on data from American Plastics Council, Aluminum Association, US Dept. of Commerce

Market Share Projection (by weight) of Three Packaging Types




Source: CRI calculations and projections based on data from American Plastics Council, US Dept. of Commerce, Aluminum Association

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- At the current rate of growth, plastic bottles (on a weight basis) will exceed glass in the waste stream by 2015.
 - Problems with plastic bottles will continue:
 - Multi-layer bottles
 - Barrier resins
 - New colors
 - PVC labels


Expanding the Bottle Bill to include other containers makes sense.

- ✓ additional 166 to 262* thousand tons of glass, plastic and aluminum diverted from waste stream annually (more if the deposit is increased to 10 cents)
 - ✓ litter reduced by up to 11%
 - ✓ new jobs and growth for state's recycling business
 - ✓ difficult to handle materials will be removed from curbside recycling programs, reducing program costs
- (* *The higher number would be realized if the law is expanded to include wine and liquor bottles*)



“...it (Returnable Container Act - RCA) has internalized the cost of solid waste management for beverage containers covered by the RCA . . . Therefore the taxpayer does not have to subsidize the disposal of empty beverage containers.”


New York Governor George Pataki



Unfortunately, beverage producers and bottlers don't want to take responsibility for their container waste and so they spend millions of dollars each year to prevent new bottle bills and expansion of existing bottle bills. Together with the grocery industry they have created a politically powerful special interest lobby.




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“To reduce litter immediately, city and state leaders should push for an expanded bottle bill...It’s possible, if leaders have the courage to take on the powerful bottlers’ lobby.”

The New York Times

Editorial, July 2002



The beverage industry opponents of the bottle bill argue that curbside recycling NOT bottle bills is the answer to recycling beverage containers and other materials.

A Dual System Makes Sense




The Bottle Bill

- Funded by the beverage industry
- Captures beverage containers consumed at home and away from home

Curbside Recycling Programs

- Funded by government
- Capture beverage containers consumed at home IF consumer wants to forfeit deposit
- Captures non-beverage containers and other materials



“If the goal is to capture the maximum amount of materials possible, then curbside recycling, deposits, and drop-off centers should all be part of a well thought out pollution prevention and waste reduction plan.”

Lanier Hickman, Former Director of SWANA

The Bigger, Better Bottle Bill will Recycle More at a Lower Cost to Government

The Bigger Better Bottle Bill (A.3922/S.1696), co-sponsored by Assemblyman Thomas DiNapoli and Senator Kenneth LaValle, would:

- add non-carbonated beverages to law;
- take unclaimed deposits and use them for recycling and other environmental programs

For more information on the BIGGER BETTER BOTTLE BILL, contact Laura Haight (NYPIRG) 518/436-0876 or go to www.nybottlebill.org

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