

The Untold Story...

Oregon's Beach and Bottle Bills

Paul A. Hanneman

The two legislative Acts featured in this book have been termed "First in the Nation" and "Landmark Legislation of the 20th Century". They're called "The Oregon Story", ---the cornerstones of forward-thinking laws in the United States, and yes, in the world.

But this book is not a re-hash of the same old story-lines written over the past 50 years, with much of it from media clips as journalists sit in the back of the hearing room gathering provocative snippets that become repeated over time. As such, this book includes people who, and events which, were never mentioned in those old stories.

Neither is this book about "back then". No, it's about the *now and the future*, because the Beach Bill employed the use of *prescriptive rights* in disputes between public and private land ownerships, especially in the Western U.S. That controversy is growing every year.

And the Bottle Bill? Opponents would like nothing better than to weaken or repeal Oregon's law! They've beaten similar legislation in many other states. But think about how much we've saved with our recovery and reuse of finite natural resources in Oregon. It's time to renew our efforts state-by-state!

Then, there's this message I'd like to leave: State legislatures are intended to be deliberative bodies. That's what we tried to be during those years of 1968 to 1971. Good law will stand the test of time. And yet, our legislative branch was vilified and our motives usually were suspect. Much of what has been written is politically warped to the point of being untrue and should be corrected.

It's important to remember many good ideas don't come from *the top down*

