



ASSOCIATION of
OREGON
RECYCLERS

April 12, 2017

Chair: Pete Chism-Winfield
City of Portland

House Committee on Energy and Environment

Past Chair: Alison Briggs-Ungerer
Consultant

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

Secretary: Kristin Leichner
Pride Disposal

Since coming to fruition in October 1972, Oregon's pioneering Bottle Bill not only established a system where beverage containers could be redeemed, recycled and returned back to the manufacturing process to become new containers and products, the iconic redemption program also set the tone for the sustainable materials management ethos we've come to embrace in Oregon.

Treasurer: Fred Stemmler
Recology Western Oregon

Conference Chair: Elizabeth Start
Scrap PDX

Oregon's Bottle Bill program is not only backed by the beverage and grocery industries and the environmental community, but has received bipartisan support from Oregon lawmakers since its initial enactment over four and a half decades ago. The Bottle Bill program is also a successful statewide system that is entirely funded and managed by the beverage and the retail industries – *at no cost to Oregon taxpayers.*

Education Chair: Pam Peck
Metro

Fundraising Chair: Nick Isbister
City of Gresham

Oregon's Bottle Bill is responsible for employing over 400 individuals and diverts at least 80 million pounds of beverage containers annually from landfills, according to the DEQ. In addition, industry professionals have stated the increased deposit on eligible containers will only encourage higher redemption/recycling rates, in turn lessening waste generation statewide. In addition, with more containers set to receive a deposit value as of January 1, 2018, expect even less containers to show up in waste streams statewide.

Legislative Chair: Justin Gast
The Recycling Partnership

Marketing Chair: Cheryln Bertges
Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative

The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative's (OBRC) goal is to capture each and every one of those eligible containers recognized by the Bottle Bill system. Since 2009, the cooperative has worked diligently to establish a successful redemption system currently consisting of 19 BottleDrop outlets (OBRC's goal is to build 45 such centers), numerous BottleDrop "Box" locations, while also collecting redeemed containers from over 2,700 large grocer and convenient store locations statewide.

Markets Chair: Vinod Singh
Far West Recycling

Membership Chair: Josy Wright
Waste Connections

To date, OBRC has demonstrated that it can handle the additional containers to be added by Oregon's Bottle Bill as of January 1, 2018. OBRC's system and capacity is not shrinking, it's growing, and it will only continue to grow and improve with each passing day.

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For these reasons, the Association of Oregon Recyclers opposes House Bill 3349, as the association considers the legislation unneeded. OBRC has proven it has the utmost abilities to oversee and grow our state's beverage container redemption system. AOR believes the bi-partisan compromise that is currently playing out should not be undermined and the Bottle Bill should continue to improve and progress so Oregon's iconic redemption system will be looked at as a leader for many decades to come.

Sincerely,

Justin Gast
Association of Oregon Recyclers, Legislative Chair