



ASSOCIATION of  
**OREGON**  
**RECYCLERS**

April 19, 2017

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House Committee on Revenue

Chair Barnhart and Members of the Committee,

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 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.

Oregon's Bottle Bill program is backed by both the beverage and grocery industries and the environmental community. It has received bipartisan support from Oregon lawmakers since its enactment over four and a half decades ago. The Bottle Bill program is a successful statewide system that is entirely funded and managed by the beverage and retail industries – *at no cost to Oregon taxpayers*.

Oregon's Bottle Bill employs over 400 people and diverts at least 80 million pounds of beverage containers annually from landfills. Its redemption infrastructure consists of 19 BottleDrop outlets (a number that's continuously growing), numerous rural BottleDrop Box locations (also rolling out now), plus over 2,600 large grocers and convenience stores located statewide. Additionally, the recycling of eligible containers via the Bottle Bill produces an annual greenhouse gas savings of over 110,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. Further, roughly *2,000 fundraising and charitable organizations* statewide also benefit from the funding created via the redemption of eligible beverage containers.

A program like the Bottle Bill can produce a lot of data. Luckily, the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC) is already capturing this data and is in the process of making this data publicly available online. It is for this reason, the Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) sees no need for House Bill 3443 and the unnecessary reporting requirements and costs it would impose on the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC).

As previously stated, the Bottle Bill system is one entirely managed by the beverage and retail industries, though OLCC does provide some oversight of the system. Reporting data associated with our state's iconic program is one of the numerous components to OBRC's present handling of the system. It is unnecessary to make a taxpayer-funded state agency undertake a task industry is already doing properly.

OBRC has proven that, whether it's via the cooperative's website, or reports the OBRC is looking to provide to the public on a quarterly basis, it has the ability to deliver accurate data that's easy for the public to digest and understand.

Though HB 3443 may be well intended, AOR sees the requirements established via HB 3443 as unneeded. OBRC has proven it has the utmost abilities to oversee, grow and report on our state's beverage container redemption system. Allow the cooperative to continue to improve and progress Oregon's iconic redemption system, so it will be looked at as a leader for many decades to come.

Sincerely,

Justin Gast  
Association of Oregon Recyclers, Legislative Chair