

March 14, 2019

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Briggs-Ungerer Consulting,  
LLC

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Master Recycler

**To:** Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
**Re:** SB 892 – removal of products from the Bottle Bill

Chair Dembrow and members of the committee,

The Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) is a not-for-profit trade association comprised of individuals, governments, not-for-profit organizations and businesses committed to encouraging waste prevention and recycling in Oregon.

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 has also set the tone for the sustainable materials management ethos we've come to embrace in Oregon.

Responsible for employing roughly 500 individuals, Oregon's Bottle Bill program is not only backed by the beverage and grocery industries and the environmental community, the program 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.

AOR opposes Senate Bill 892, as we feel this legislation sets a dangerous precedent for potential future efforts to remove other similar electrolyte-replenishment-based beverages from the Bottle Bill program, such as Gatorade and PowerAde or even other products that are in recyclable containers.

Section 360ee(b)(3) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, for which this bill associates Pedialyte with, currently defines the term 'medical food' as meaning "*a food which is formulated to be consumed or administered enterally under the supervision of a physician and which is intended for the specific dietary management of a disease or condition for which distinctive nutritional requirements, based on recognized scientific principles, are established by medical evaluation.*"

Like other electrolyte-replenishment-based beverages, Pedialyte, which is roughly 98 percent water, can be purchased right off any given store shelf and consumed, without physician supervision, for the purpose of replenishing one's



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nutrients lost during a long run, a game of basketball, or even relieving the effects of a hangover, among other activities.

AOR has supported Oregon's bottle bill since the organization's inception in 1977. *We ask that you not rollback a successful system that is currently experiencing a 90 plus percent redemption rate; one that recycled roughly 1.7 billion containers statewide in 2018; and, one that is also allowing containers housing products like Pedialyte to be redeemed and the value of that deposit to be donated to schools, youth organizations or to any one of the other 1,200 plus non-profit organizations statewide utilizing the established BottleDrop Give system, a donation/fundraising system that in 2018 saw the generation of over \$1 million in donations, all from the redemption of eligible beverage containers.*

For these reasons, the Association of Oregon Recyclers opposes Senate Bill 892. AOR believes the successful system 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,

Alison Briggs-Ungerer  
Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers