

Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon League of Conservation Voters Opposition to Senate Bill 892

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, I am writing to oppose SB 892, exempting certain products from the Oregon Bottle Bill.

If passed, SB 892 would create a large loophole for Pedialyte and potentially other electrolyte products to be exempt from the Bottle Bill. Pedialyte comes in a plastic bottle. If not recycled, Pedialyte bottles create litter and waste like any other plastic bottle. This product competes with other products in the bottle bill. The Bottle Bill has been remarkably effective at reducing litter and increasing the quality of recycling. The OLCC already reviewed this issue and decided not to exempt these containers. Removing a product from the Bottle Bill sets the precedent that depending on who consumes the product and for what reason, environmental concerns should be discarded.

This is contrary to the spirit of the Bottle Bill and contrary to the beliefs of the environmental community in Oregon. It is ironic that given the focus on ocean plastic pollution and the efforts underway in this Legislative session to reduce plastic pollution, that the Legislative Assembly would consider an action likely to increase plastics strewn about in Oregon's natural places.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to vote no on SB 892.

Thank you,
Paige Spence
Oregon Conservation Network Director
Oregon League of Conservation Voters