

May 7, 2019

Chair: Alison Briggs-Ungerer
Briggs-Ungerer Consulting,
LLC

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To: House Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: SB 93-A - Support

Chair Helm and members of the committee,

The Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) is a not-for-profit trade association focused on advancing waste prevention and recycling in Oregon. AOR's diverse membership includes more than 200 businesses, governments, nonprofits and individuals working together on the common goal of achieving a system of sustainable materials management in Oregon.

AOR has been a supporter of Oregon's Bottle Bill since the organization's inception in 1977, and has been involved in the policy-related progression of the state's iconic container redemption program since the outset of the association. AOR is putting its support behind Senate Bill 93-A, especially the Bottle Drop Express-related language added to the bill.

In our industry, no system is perfect when it starts. Systems grow, environments change over time and, even if that system is performing successfully, you always want to make sure that system is adapting to meet the needs of today's consumers and retailers. With the right partners providing the right guidance, improvements are expected that will not only strengthen the efforts associated with that system, but make it much more effective, efficient and equitable for every stakeholder it impacts.

AOR feels the bulk redemption service concept put forth in the bill's language is another step in the continual progression to make the state's Bottle Bill system as conveniently accessible as possible for consumers statewide – thus encouraging participation and allowing the system to achieve the highest recovery rates possible – and the redemption process as convenient and effective as possible for participating retailers.

The program updates included in Senate Bill 93-A will ensure that the redemption opportunities provided to consumers and retailers in Portland, Eugene and Salem are the same opportunities available to consumers and retailers living and operating in Burns, Lakeview and Vale.

For that reason, the Association of Oregon Recyclers supports the amended Senate Bill 93-A, as the updates put in place by this bill will ensure



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that Oregon's iconic redemption system is looked at as a leader for many decades to come.

Sincerely,

Alison Briggs-Ungerer
Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers