

May 7, 2019

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

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To: House Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: SB 247-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 247-A for two reasons.

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) is not only responsible for regulating Oregon's Liquor Control Act and the state's Control, Regulation, and Taxation of Marijuana and Industrial Hemp Act, the agency is also responsible for enforcing the rules associated with Oregon's pioneering beverage container redemption program.

Presently, the OLCC only has one full time staff dedicated to Bottle Bill compliance. As the system continues to improve and expand, additional FTE will be needed to ensure that regulatory service around the Bottle Bill improves and expands, as well. The registration fee associated with this bill will ensure the OLCC has the necessary funding to provide the administrative FTE needed to oversee the program.

Secondly, one of AOR's guiding principles when it comes to its support of the Bottle Bill is "ensuring the system is always open to the addition of recyclable containers and that all container types are being considered." Kombucha is already a recognized beverage under Oregon's Bottle Bill. It only makes sense to have the alcohol-based version of Kombucha recognized by the system as well, a proposal that was introduced, and is supported, by the product manufacturers themselves.

For these reasons, the Association of Oregon Recyclers supports Senate Bill 247-A, as the updates put in place by this bill will ensure that Oregon's iconic



PO BOX 1264
Tualatin, OR 97062
503-233-3056
www.oregonrecyclers.org

redemption system is continued to be looked at as a leader for many decades to come.

Sincerely,

Alison Briggs-Ungerer
Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers