

**Testimony of Anneliese Koehler, State and Regional Affairs Advisor
In Support of Senate Bill 1520
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
February 2, 2022**



Metro is the regional government of the Portland metropolitan area, with major responsibility for managing the region’s solid waste and providing opportunities for recycling and waste reduction. Metro serves a population of over 1.7 million, providing services and educational resources that protect the environment and reduce the amount and toxicity of the solid waste stream.

Metro strongly supports the Oregon Bottle Bill. We participated in the discussions that led to the modernization of the Bottle Bill—first to include bottled water (2007), and then to cover almost all consumer beverages and increase the redemption value from 5 cents to 10 cents (2011). Those changes to the Bottle Bill were driven by the recognition that the beverage industry and consumer behavior had greatly changed over the 40 years since the bill was first adopted.

SB 1520 proposes another change to the Bottle Bill that also reflects changes in the beverage industry and consumer behavior. Over the past several years, wine sold in cans has been introduced onto the shelves of stores across the state. Because the Bottle Bill covers almost all other beverages sold in cans, this exception creates confusion for consumers. We believe it’s fair to ask: why are fruit juices, seltzers, caffeinated drinks and other beverages sold in cans under the Bottle Bill, but cans with wine are not?

We recognize that there are additional factors that need to be considered regarding including wine distributed in other types of containers (e.g., can the current redemption system handle large glass containers?). However, the Bottle Bill modernizations were intended to address **exactly** this development – changes in consumer habits that result in less recycling and more littering.

Metro urges you to support SB 1520.