



February 2, 2022

Chair Kate Lieber
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Lieber and members of the Committee on Energy and Environment:

The Oregon Wine Council, Oregon Winegrowers Association and Wine Institute have appreciated the opportunity to work with Chair Lieber, Senator Dembrow, Senator Findley and other committee members to move SB 1520 to a position that our organizations would be neutral on.

As we have made clear in those conversations, the wine industry believes that adding wine in cans to Oregon's Bottle Bill, as outlined in SB 1520, is premature given we do not yet have adequate data to understand the impact of the new Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) system outlined in SB 582 from last session. We believe that before moving forward on this proposal, we must take the appropriate time to evaluate the costs of including all wine containers in both the Bottle Bill and the new PRO system.

Having said that, we appreciate the opportunity to work with committee members to amend the existing language in SB 1520 to move our organizations to a position of neutral on the legislation.

First, we appreciate the committee's willingness to push the implementation date for including wine in cans out to July 1, 2025, which would align its implementation with the PRO program implementation, allowing time for the wine industry to obtain cost information of both systems and to evaluate the full impacts of both systems on our operations and facilities.

Second, as we have discussed with committee members, many of our members are concerned about the labeling requirements that come with incorporating some of our wine containers into the Bottle Bill. We appreciate the committee's understanding and recognition of these concerns and would ask that the timeline for labeling requirements of wine in cans be pushed back to October 1, 2026, to allow producers time to come into compliance.

Finally, we want to highlight for the committee that adding wine in cans to the Bottle Bill through this legislation this session without the benefit of sufficient time for analysis of the impact to our industry will require the wine industry to work with this committee, the entire legislature, OLCC and DEQ on future legislative changes related to the Oregon Bottle Bill and DEQ's yet-to-be determined PRO program. Two of the more important issues include:

- Ability of all wine containers, including wine cans, to be part of a PRO system if our industry determines this is the best way to achieve container recycling goals and is in the best financial interest of the wine industry; and,
- Container redemption and take back policies for our tasting rooms that are primarily located on farmland, if eventually wine cans, wine bottles or other container packaging is made part of the Oregon Bottle Bill.

We understand the proposed amendment to SB 1520 does not address the issues we have outlined above, but we appreciate the intent of Chair Lieber and the committee to work with us on future policy changes. With this assurance, our organizations would be willing to take a neutral position on SB 1520. Thank you for the opportunity to work collaboratively with you on this proposal and we look forward to addressing any further questions you may have.

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Jana McKamey, Executive Director Oregon Winegrowers Association
Hasina Wittenberg, Contract Lobbyist for Wine Institute