

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
On SB 1520**

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Findley and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jamie Pang South, and I am the Environmental Health Program Director at Oregon Environmental Council (OEC). We are a policy-focused, non-profit environmental group that works throughout Oregon. I am supporting SB 1520, which would modernize and expand the existing Oregon Bottle Bill to include wine in cans, improve service to rural areas, and require increased reporting from the distributor cooperative that delivers the vast majority bottle and can return services.

Oregon Environmental Council championed the 1971 Bottle Bill in our early days to address the growing litter problem along Oregon beaches, highways and other public areas, and encourage Oregonians to recycle their glass bottles, cans, and beverage containers. As an early inception of 'producer responsibility,'¹ the Oregon Bottle Bill has remained an international gold standard, with an approximately 82% redemption rate between 2019-2020, even through the pandemic.²

We support extending the Bottle Bill to include wine cans as a common-sense and efficient solution that will increase recycling of aluminum cans. In general, cans already have a high rate of recycling, with a 65% rate of recycled content in each can.³ Aluminum cans can be recycled repeatedly with no limit, in a closed-loop process, and is now being more commonly used as a

¹ "Extended Producer Responsibility is a concept where manufacturers and importers of products should bear a significant degree of responsibility for the environmental impacts of their products throughout the product life-cycle, including upstream impacts inherent in the selection of materials for the products, impacts from manufacturers' production process itself, and downstream impacts from the use and disposal of the products."

² <https://www.bottlebill.org/index.php/current-and-proposed-laws/usa/oregon>.

³ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-environment-plastic-aluminium-insight/plastic-bottles-vs-aluminum-cans-wholl-win-the-global-water-fight-idUSKBN1WWOJ5>

convenient, lightweight, and more portable container for wine. Recycling aluminum cans also takes 95% less energy making a can from its virgin source.⁴

OEC also supports SB 1520's other components because they will begin to address gaps in services to rural areas and recognize the need to provide quality service for those who rely on bottle and can returns as a daily source of income. These portions of the bill will benefit rural and historically underserved communities, and hopefully allow many more communities beyond the Portland Metro region to access the benefits of the Bottle Bill and make more sustainable consumer choices.

Respectfully submitted,

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⁴ e. One ton of recycled aluminum saves 14,000 kilowatt hours (Kwh) of energy, 40 barrels of oil, 130. 152.32 million BTU's of energy, and 10 cubic yards of landfill space. <https://lbre.stanford.edu/pssistanford-recycling/frequently-asked-questions/frequently-asked-questions-benefits-recycling>