



**Oregon
Winegrowers**
ASSOCIATION EST 1981

Public Comments on House Bill 4030 -6

House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business

February 10, 2025

The Oregon Winegrowers Association is a member-driven advocacy organization advancing the interests of the largest agricultural economic impact sector in Oregon. We have hundreds of winery and vineyard members representing over two-thirds of Oregon's wine production. For more than 40 years, OWA has advocated for policies that support the health, growth and economic sustainability of Oregon's wine industry.

The Oregon Winegrowers Association writes to convey strong support for temporarily pausing continued implementation and enforcement of Oregon's EPR program. There is active federal litigation ongoing, with a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement for certain producers being announced late last week. Unfortunately, this creates an uneven and uncertain regulatory environment where some producers are subject to fees and compliance obligations while others are not.

OWA and our members support strong recycling policy, and we have engaged in good faith conversations with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality on potential improvements to the EPR program. DEQ has been responsive to our concerns, and we have worked to share industry perspectives and on-the-ground realities from glass producers.

Those conversations have been constructive, and we see a real opportunity to refine how glass is treated under the program so that fees and incentives line up with intended and achievable recycling outcomes. At the same time, these policy discussions are unfolding in a period of legal uncertainty that makes it challenging for both regulators and regulated parties to move forward with full confidence.

Given the ongoing litigation and the uneven landscape, a temporary pause is a reasonable step. It ensures fairness for all producers across all covered products and allows the state to proceed with greater certainty once the courts have weighed in.

We respectfully ask for your support of the -6 amendment.