

Modernizing Oregon's Bottle Bill

Association of Oregon Recyclers
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History



- Oregon adopts the United States first bottle bill in 1971 in order to eliminate roadside litter
- 10 states follow suit
- Initiative effort expanding OR law to include additional containers fails in 1996
- 2003 session “study bill” fails
- 2005 session looks forward to the Association of Oregon Recyclers “modernization”

Following the nickel

- Distributors “initiate” the deposit by charging retailers a deposit on each container they buy.
- Consumer pays retailer the deposit upon purchase.
- Retailer returns nickel to the consumer upon return.
- Distributor pays retailer a nickel for each container returned to the distributor.
- Distributor sells collected materials on secondary market.

What's Covered

- Presence of carbonation defines a beverage container in ORS 459A.
- Beer
- Pop
- Glass (22%)
- Plastic (11%)
- Aluminum (67%)

What's not covered

- Water bottles
- Sports drinks
- Bottled teas
- Bottled coffee drinks
- Wine
- Spirits
- Dairy drinks
- Juice bottles and boxes

Littering and Garbage in Oregon

AOR's Lane, Marion, and Multnomah litter studies, 2004

- Roadside
- Rivers
- Forests
- Parks
- Beaches



Recycling in Oregon



- Curbside
- Commercial
- MRF's
- Depot
- Redemption

A modernized bottle bill

- Increases the deposit to \$0.10 for containers between 7 oz and 1 gallon
- Adds sports drinks, bottled water, wine, and liquor
- Ensures Oregon only deposit-return system
- Creates Bottle Bill Board which:
 - licenses handlers and processors and establishes rules and a payment structure for their operation
 - establishes market development, education and other public benefit programs

Following the dime (proposed)

- Manufacturer will initiate deposit and pay collected funds to the BBB, which *either* will directly expend the funds or contract with a non-profit corporation.
- Consumer returns deposit container to a BBB licensed redemption center for full refund.
- Unredeemed monies accumulate with BBB, and will be used to support collection and processing activities.

Outcomes



- Fiber rich curbside collection program that maximizes value by providing contamination free feedstocks to a robust paper recycling industry.
- Container rich redemption system which increases recovery and provides clean glass, aluminum, and plastic containers to industries which pay a premium for pure streams of containers.
- Expanded tax base and new jobs resulting from system of redemption centers for Oregon's towns and cities.