

OREGON PROGRESSIVE PARTY



411 S.W. 2nd Avenue
Suite 200
Portland, OR 97204
503-548-2797
info@progparty.org

March 13, 2017

www.ProgParty.org

Oregon Progressive Party Position on Bill at 2017 Session of Oregon Legislature:

HB 2746: Support withdrawn

Dear Committee:

Upon reconsideration, the Oregon Progressive Party (OPP) withdraws its support for this bill, which is described in its summary as requiring payment of refund value of 10 cents for certain beverage containers on and after April 1, 2017, regardless of refund value indicated on beverage container.

But that is already existing law, which requires that deposits be increased to 10 cents as of April 1, 2017, due to failure to meet recycling goals. This bill also creates an exception, effective until either September 20, 2018, or the end of 2018, to the existing law that requires bottles to be accurately labeled as to the deposit amount.

During that time, some consumers will be misled and think that the deposits on their bottles are only 5 cents, because some bottles will indeed have that label. Worse, consumers may not know that a bottle has any refund value, because this bill grants the labeling exception for bottles that do not show any refund value. The resulting misapprehension will discourage recycling--the opposite of what the increase to 10 cents is intended to accomplish.

We see no reason that the types of beverages new to the deposit requirement on January 1, 2018, should have a 1-year exemption from the requirement that each bottled be labeled with the deposit amount. These beverage makers have known since 2011 that they would be subject to the labeling requirement not later than January 1, 2018.

This bill would be improved by another amendment that directs unclaimed deposit refunds to the general fund. This is how the programs work in California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. The government of New York retains 80% of unclaimed refunds; Michigan retains 75%. Oregon currently retains 0%.

Oregon Progressive Party

Daniel Meek
authorized legal representative
dan@meek.net
503-293-9021

