



SERVING INDUSTRY
AND THE ENVIRONMENT

08 June 2017

To: House Committee on Revenue

From: Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC)

Re: HB 3443

Dear members of the House Revenue Committee:

HB 3443 is scheduled for a work session today, less than 48 hours after we first learned of the existence of amendments to the bill. Despite our expressed desire to work with the bill sponsors on a non-legislative solution to provide greater transparency, the bill and its amendments have been developed without input from OBRC, nor communication from its sponsors. We strongly believe that these amendments undermine the proprietary concerns of OBRC and its Bottle Bill coalition partners, and create an unworkable bill that is not ready to become law.

OBRC and its Bottle Bill coalition, as previously stated in earlier communications, do not disagree with the underlying principles of HB 3443. However, Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC) already provides public quarterly reports that go far beyond the data requested by HB 3443. Those quarterly reports are available online.

OBRC is independently audited on an annual basis, currently by Moss Adams, for the benefit of its 84 cooperative participants. Additionally, we are discussing with private accounting firms how existing quarterly reporting might be independently certified. This is not a standard practice for Cooperative organizations, but OBRC is pursuing it nevertheless in its desire to further public confidence in the data reported.

Put simply, this bill, and its amendments, are not needed. Moreover, both draft amendments contain vague language that creates unclear legal standards with unintended consequences. As written, the amended bill would compel broad disclosure of sensitive data, and potentially, consumer information.

OBRC and those who participate in the Bottle Bill coalition reiterate our desire to work towards a non-legislative solution to provide clear, timely, and accurate information to the public. Unfortunately, the development process related to this bill and these amendments make good faith collaboration difficult. We urge the committee not to move the bill.

Signed,

Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative