



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 16, 2023

To: [Senator Janeen Sollman](#)
[Senate Energy and Environment Committee](#)

Re: [SB 545 – Reuse of Containers – Support](#)

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) has strongly supported the “reduce, reuse, recycle” hierarchy since the 1991-1994 battle over reauthorization of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

SB 545 would allow food establishments, including restaurants, to establish procedures to allow consumers to use their own containers for non-ready-to eat food, bulk ready-to-eat food (such as the grocery store bins with nuts) or packaged food. It would also allow the consumer to ask an employee to refill their visibly clean container using a contamination-free process. This could be, for example, in restaurants where employees, rather than the diner, package take-home leftovers. It also has procedures for empty take-home food containers to be returned to the food establishment for reuse and some special requirements for beverages.

Although some of these containers are recyclable, we know that many of those will not be put into the recycle bin and that some, which are not recyclable, are put into the bin. In addition, even if they are recycled, replacement will be needed. According to our “reduce, reuse, recycle” hierarchy, “reduce” is better than “recycle.”

We agree that allowing the businesses to choose to implement any or all of these options is preferable to mandating that they do so. The one exception might be to always allow diners to put the leftovers from their own meals in the containers they brought with them.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and recommend that you support SB 545.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Moyd".

Kathy Moyd
Natural Resources Portfolio