

859 SW Sitka Drive  
McMinnville OR 97128  
April 4, 2023

RE: Consumer-owned containers for bulk buying

Position: PRO

As a board member of Zero Waste McMinnville, one of the areas of responsibility that I have assumed is communicating concepts for improving the environmentally sustainable practices each of us can have. I am the manager for our organization's Facebook presence.

Making a personal transition to mesh bags for my bulk purchasing of dry items was easy. Trying to remove plastic from my food storage routine, I got into discussion with the manager of our local Roth's a few years ago. We finally had come to an understanding that they would need to install a commercially-rated dishwasher that could be used to sanitize all containers. And then the Pandemic happened. So the time had to wait. And here we are now.

As a consumer, I would either bring my own clean jars or could purchase one of the ones the store would provide. Either of these would be marked with the empty container tare to enable the weight of the contents to be priced appropriately at the cash register. A consumer could swap a used jar for a clean jar with no additional cost and the store would collect the use jars, sanitize them, and restack on the shelves for continued use.

As a store manager, he could assign one of his staff to monitor the collection of used jars and process dishwasher loads and return them to the shelf.

This CAN work and be sanitary for all users.

Beth Rankin  
Zero Waste McMinnville Board of Directors