



February 14, 2024

Chair Pam Marsh
 House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Rep.PamMarsh@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Chair Marsh and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to write in concerning HB 4013. We are writing today to **neither support nor oppose the bill**, but to provide technical information related to glass wine container recycling. While our position on the bill is neutral, our research here at CRI supports the addition of glass wine containers to Oregon’s deposit return system, instead of the state’s EPR for Packaging system.

There has been a growing trend of adding wine to deposit return systems. There are **27** places around the world where glass wine containers are included in a Deposit Return System (DRS). The states of Iowa and Maine have included glass wine containers in their bottle bills for many years. As of January 1, 2024, California began including glass wine containers due to the passage of SB 1013 (2022). Around the world, wine is included in DRS programs in Europe, Canada, and Australia. See Table 1 for more details on deposit return programs in the United States.

Table 1. Deposit Amount and Coverage by State

State	Beer	Soda/ Carbonated Water	Water	Juice, Tea, Energy Drinks, Sports, Other non-carbonated drinks	Wine	Liquor
ME	5¢	5¢	5¢	5¢	15¢	15¢
OR	10¢	10¢	10¢	10¢	X	X
CT	10¢	10¢	10¢	10¢	X	X
CA	5¢/10¢	5¢/10¢	5¢/10¢	5¢/10¢	5¢/10¢/25¢	5¢/10¢/25¢
NY	5¢	5¢	5¢	X	X	X
VT	5¢	5¢	X	X	X	15¢
HI	5¢	5¢	5¢	5¢	X	X
NY	5¢	5¢	5¢	X	X	X
IA	5¢	5¢	X	X	5¢	5¢
MA	5¢	5¢	X	X	X	X
MI	10¢	10¢	X	X	X	X

The state of Oregon should add wine to the state’s deposit return system for a variety of reasons.

1. From a recycling perspective, there’s no question about which system is better. **Beverage containers collected through a deposit system typically suffer less breakage and contamination** than those collected through other systems; that means *more* bottle bill

containers can be recycled into new containers than containers recycled through other means. Glass is less likely to get sent to the landfill when in a deposit system – studies show that about **three times** as much glass gets recycled in a deposit system (66%) rather than single-stream curbside collection (22%). If glass from curbside recycling is sent to a glass processing facility, typically only 60% of the glass mixture is able to be recycled into glass bottles or fiberglass. The rest is either non glass residue or fines.

2. Manufacturers of glass bottles and fiberglass can benefit by having **more cullet to use as recycled content in place of virgin content**. Using cullet (uniform recycled glass pieces) instead of sand and other raw materials to make glass bottles and fiberglass reduces the energy needed for manufacturing, prolongs furnace life, and reduces air emissions, including greenhouse gasses.
3. There are great environmental benefits to adding wine bottles to DRS in Oregon. Currently, we estimate that about **14 million glass wine bottles are recycled** per year through existing recycling programs, and about **57 million glass wine bottles are wasted**. This means that about only **24% of the wine bottles sold are being recycled**. If Oregon's DRS were to include glass wine bottles, it is estimated that **an additional 46 million containers could be diverted from the landfill**. The recycling rate of glass wine bottles could therefore be tripled. The addition of glass wine bottles to the deposit law could eliminate more than **8,900 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent of taking 1,946 cars off the road**.
4. Consumers benefit because they will now be able to return all wine bottles and cans without confusion about what is covered by the deposit, and what is not.

Additional Statistics:

Glass wine bottles comprise about 2% of total beverage sales annually, by unit count. However, these bottles comprise 18% of beverage containers sold by weight.

Please contact me with any questions you may have.



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