

# Grocers & Oregon's Bottle Bill



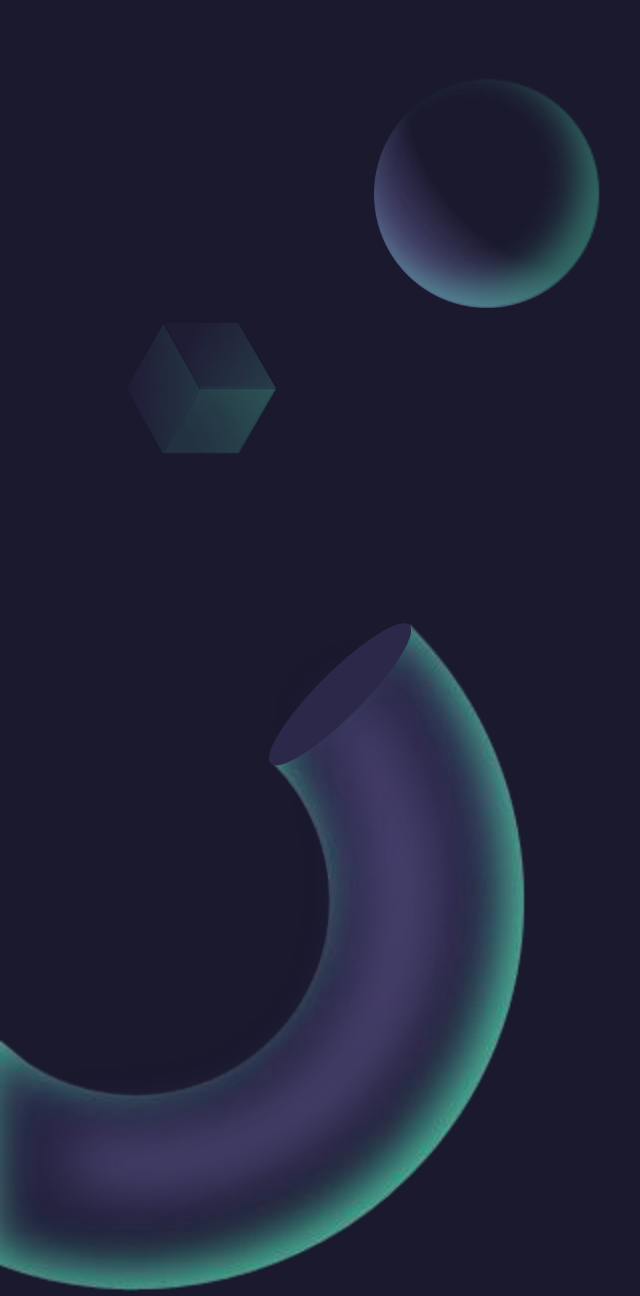
Amanda Dalton, President NWGRA

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# Oregon Grocery Retailers – Role in the Bottle Bill

- Retailers collect and return the dime from the consumer at point of sale
- Retailers pay for operation and management of the dealer redemption sites in their parking lots and strive to ensure sanitation and safety are prioritized at drop sites
- Retailers manage labor for bottle rooms
- Retailers host reverse vending machines onsite
- Retailers face compliance and legal costs as aggressive plaintiffs' attorneys engage every time a product is added, or its redemption value is changed
- Retailers invest in promotional costs in partnership with OBRC to offer BottleDrop PLUS, where retailers offer an additional 20% if the consumer redeems their deposit value in our stores – further encouraging consumer returns and redemption
- Retailers cover the cost and space associated with hosting Bottle Drop Kiosks where consumers can print vouchers for their cash redemption at checkout or for in-store PLUS credit

The image features three decorative geometric shapes on the left side: a sphere at the top, a cube in the middle, and a thick ring at the bottom. All shapes have a teal-to-purple gradient and a soft glow. The text is positioned to the right of these shapes.

At the estimated cost of \$34M per year for chain, family-owned and independent retailers in operations and new capital expenses...plus over \$5M in PLUS return incentives.

# 2024 – Modernization Talks Started

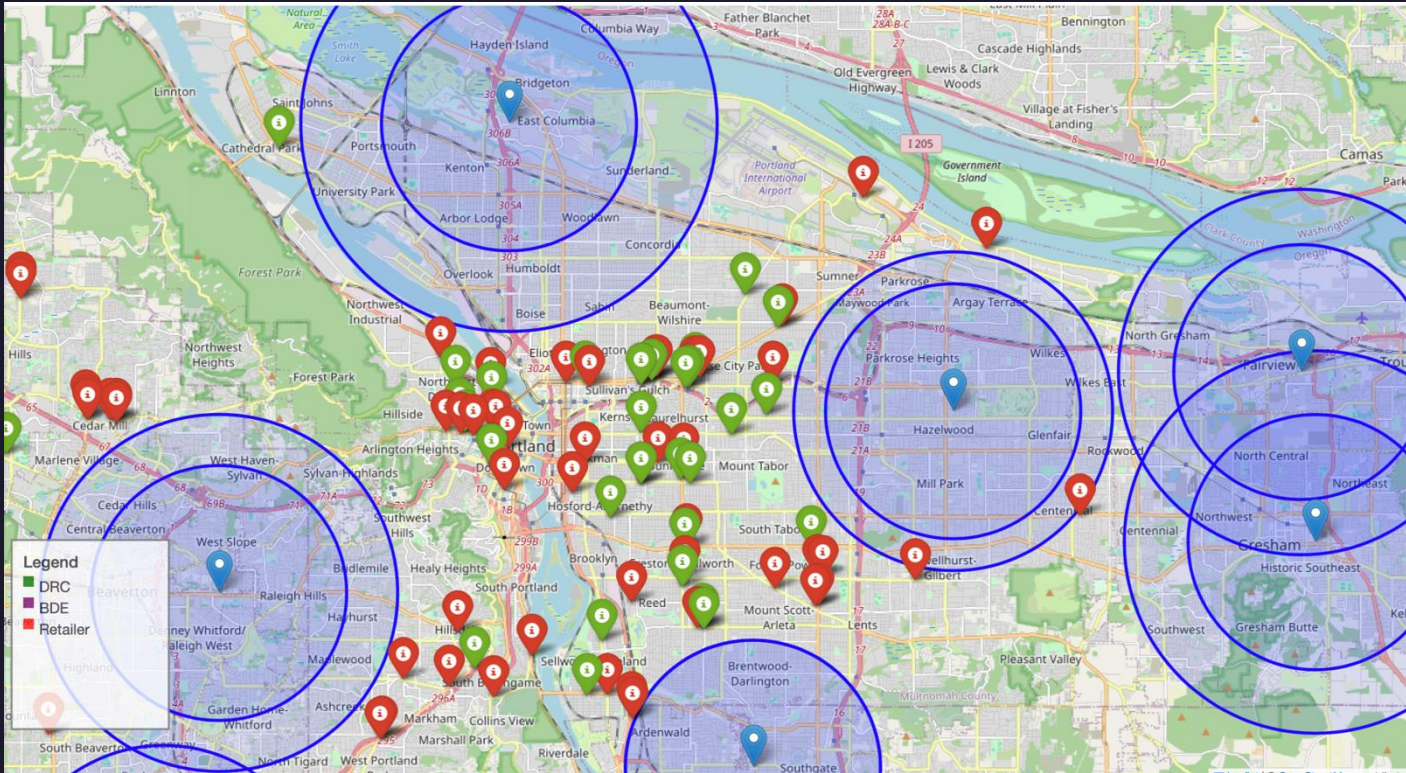
- Retailers believe new operational updates and safety reforms are needed
- These changes will improve convenience, increase redemption rates and provide safety - when needed – for customers and employees
- Our goal: Improve the day-to-day experience for the diverse communities today's Oregon Bottle Bill serves



Early on recognized there were two separate and distinct problems to solve – Portland and then Statewide...

# Portland Solution

## The problem:



## The Solution:

- Convened all major grocery retailers with a footprint in downtown
- Charged to find creative solution to downtown Portland problem
- Stakeholders included: The Peoples Depot, OBRC, City of Portland, Prosper Portland, Portland Metro Chamber, Governor's Office and OLCC
- Partnership with OBRC and NWGRA and The Peoples Depot to petition the OLCC to designate the first Alternative Access Redemption Center under today's statutory and regulatory framework – a pilot till Legislation can pass
- Still work to do:
  - Securing a physical location for the Peoples Depot
  - Build a budget with real projections for 2025
  - Cost sharing projections for large retailers in proposed convenience zone
  - Public and community outreach
  - OLCC application that stakeholders believe can be approved

# Portland Outcome

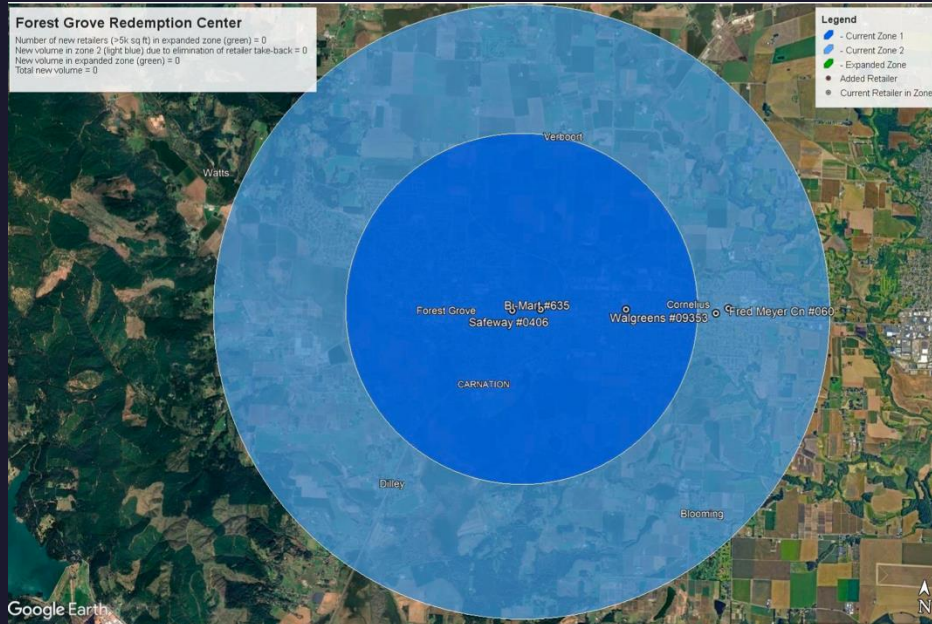
- ✓ Recognize a proven track-record of safety and operational success of People's Depot, a 501c3 non-profit, and support their designation as a temporary Full-Service Redemption Center.
- ✓ Approval as a Full-Service Redemption Center will provide People's Depot with predictable and sustainable funding, and opportunity for growth and mobility, serving more daily canners and offering more hours and jobs at the Center.
- ✓ Increase customer convenience by increasing education and marketing opportunities for green bag drop off locations for downtown Portland residents.



# Statewide Problem

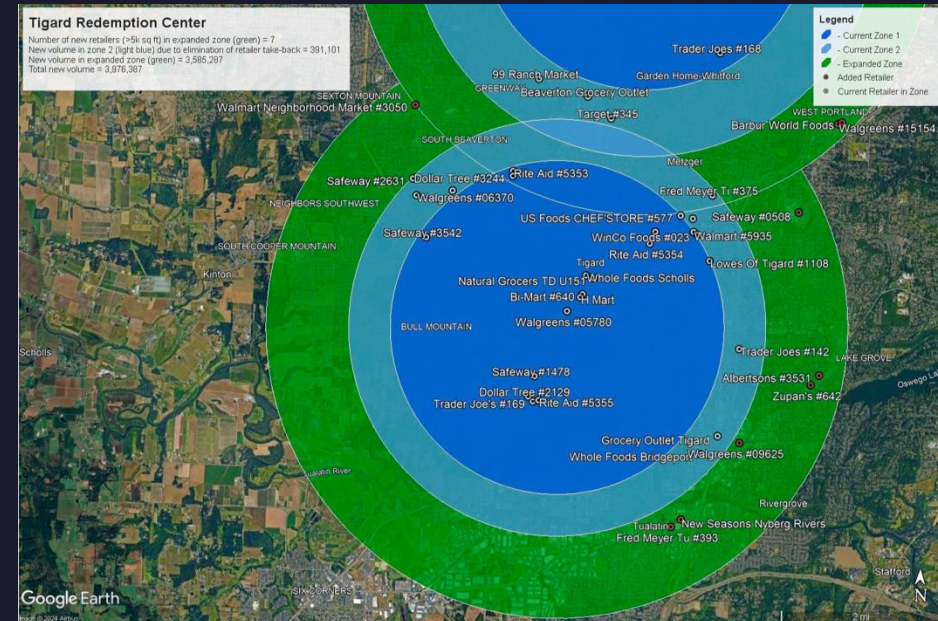
## Forest Grove Redemption Center

Number of new retailers (>5k sq ft) in expanded zone (green) = 0  
 New volume in zone 2 (light blue) due to elimination of retailer take-back = 0  
 New volume in expanded zone (green) = 0  
 Total new volume = 0



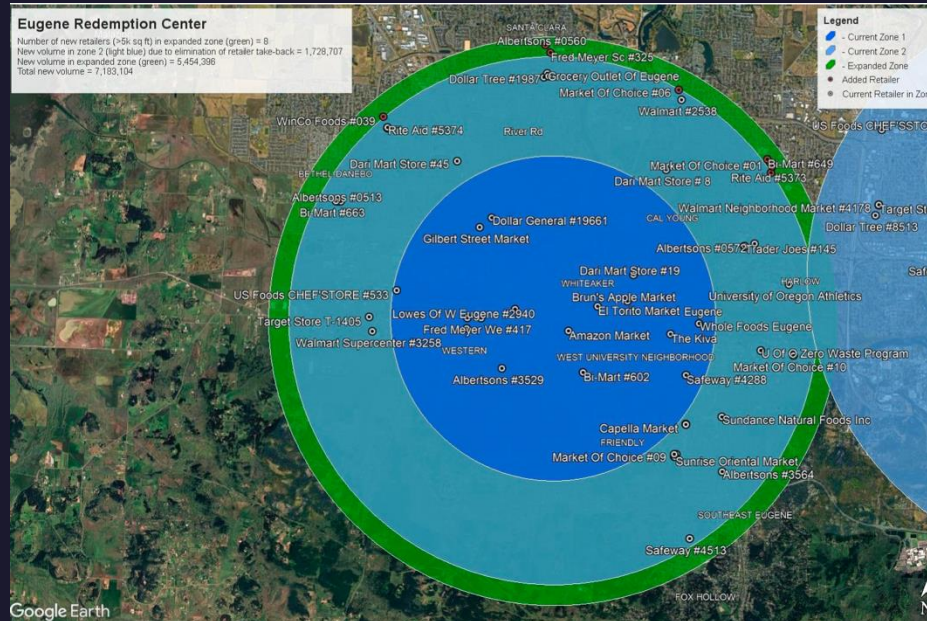
## Tigard Redemption Center

Number of new retailers (>5k sq ft) in expanded zone (green) = 7  
 New volume in zone 2 (light blue) due to elimination of retailer take-back = 391,101  
 New volume in expanded zone (green) = 3,585,297  
 Total new volume = 3,976,397



## Eugene Redemption Center

Number of new retailers (>5k sq ft) in expanded zone (green) = 8  
 New volume in zone 2 (light blue) due to elimination of retailer take-back = 1,728,707  
 New volume in expanded zone (green) = 5,454,268  
 Total new volume = 7,183,104



# Legislative Solution – HB 2068

- **New City of Portland Alternative Access Redemption Center**
- **Redemption Centers & Convenience Zones Reform**
  - Creates three types of convenience zones across Oregon – recognizing unique challenges and opportunities for increased convenience and return:
    - Portland
      - Increases Dealer Redemption Centers for green bag return by providing incentive for retailers to locate and provide at no cost to the customer
    - High Impact
      - Anticipated will include 5 of the 27 current redemption zones
      - Two zones remain – but with new incentive for retailer to locate DRC at no charge to customer
    - Low Impact
      - Anticipated will include 22 of 27 current redemption zones
      - Merges Zone 1 and Zone 2 for the purpose of individual can return requirements – relying on full service redemption centers for individual can and bottle return
- **Temporary Safety & Clean Up Shut Downs**
  - Grants rulemaking authority to the OLCC to create temporary shut-down periods for health, safety, and maintenance of bottle bill return locations.





# Wine in Bottle Bill v. RMA



- Grocers oppose returning wine bottles to grocery stores
- Costs will increase substantially if wine were to be added to the Bottle Bill:
  - Wine bottles are heavier and green bags are unlikely to be able to be stacked upon one another when full of glass (which will require expansion or additional infrastructure)
  - Bottle rooms will fill up quicker and pick-up schedules would need to at least double
  - Reverse vending machines will also need to be replaced or upgraded
  - Additional pick-up trips added
- Grocery stores do not have capacity in their current take back rooms or DRCs for wine bottles
- Labor risks and physical strain of lifting a 30 – 35 lb. bag of glass bottles, in addition to the exposure to broken glass – will also increase liability and workers compensation claims