



February 6, 2025

Senator Aaron Woods
Representative David Gomberg
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

Dear Co-Chairs Woods and Gomberg,

The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC) writes to express our support for HB 5019, the 2025-2027 budget bill for the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC). OBRC was formed by beverage distributors in Oregon in 2009 to help manage Oregon's landmark Bottle Bill on a statewide basis, but beverage distributors and OLCC, have jointly served as stewards (in different capacities) managing the system since 1971. Oregon's Bottle Bill is now in its 54th year and remains one of the most impactful and celebrated legislative accomplishments in Oregon history.

In 2023, Oregon's Bottle Bill system achieved an 87.3% redemption rate – the highest in the nation for the third year in a row. With over two billion containers redeemed and recycled each year, Oregon's first-of-its-kind system is globally touted as best-in-class because of our nation-leading redemption rates, the low per-container processing cost made possible through efficiency and innovation, and true material circularity achieved by this system.

OLCC plays a critical role as regulator of Oregon's Bottle Bill system and has successfully scaled to meet constituent needs with the growth of the program over the last several years. We are grateful for OLCC's work fielding customer inquiries, regulating consumer access, tabulating annual output measures, and documenting the results of Oregon's program – much is accomplished by a small team of dedicated Bottle Bill experts at OLCC.

Our customers and your constituents rely upon the OLCC to ensure businesses comply with their Bottle Bill obligations so that Oregonians are able to redeem their containers, and Oregon continues to achieve strong recycling outcomes. The OLCC keeps all participants in the Bottle Bill, including distributors, grocers, and our coop, transparent and

accountable. Specifically, we appreciate Jim Helget and Nadine Scruton, OLCC's Bottle Bill Program staff, for their collaboration, as well as the agency as a whole, for their commitment to supporting the success of the Bottle Bill. We are pleased to support OLCC's Bottle Bill program in part through payment of the annual redemption center registration fees.

Oregon is well-served by its Bottle Bill, and Oregonians are likewise well-served by their Bottle Bill regulators at OLCC. We encourage the Subcommittee to support OLCC's important work as they consider the agency's 2025-2027 budget in HB 5019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Morales". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "D" being significantly larger and more stylized than the rest of the text.

Devon Morales

Vice President of External Affairs
Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative