



April 1, 2025

OBWDA is a membership organization representing local beverage distributors who employ over 3,000 Oregonians.

**OBWDA strongly supports Oregon's bottle bill and strongly opposes any new tax, in any form, on beverage containers that would both:**

- **Degrade Oregon's bottle bill; and**
- **Have entirely no nexus or connection to the issue of wildfire funding.**

**Legislators should move to quickly remove the bottle bill from the ongoing conversation on wildfire funding.** Oregon is known around the world for having the best container recovery system. States around the country look to Oregon as having the “gold standard” of bottle bills. Oregon should look to export this model to other states rather than degrade the bottle bill by adding new taxes on the system.

Oregon's Bottle Bill provides an essential lifeline for Oregonians, many of whom are in economically uncertain times. Every year, more than \$200 million is refunded to Oregonians, in some cases determining whether food is on the table or a utility bill is paid. Nearly 7,000 families use the bottle bill to save for college or disability, and it helps more than 225,000 Oregonians each year pay for their groceries through the BottleDrop Plus program. In addition, the Bottle Bill provides a critical source of funding for 6,900 nonprofits in every part of Oregon.

Oregon's bottle bill is already not without challenges. Today, beverage distributors face increasing costs and barriers, including inflationary pressures, permitting challenges, and more that threaten the efficient operation of the bottle bill. The last thing the bottle bill needs right now is another barrier to running an effective system.

Since 1972, Oregon beverage distributors have been stewards of Oregon's bottle bill, protecting the environment from litter while recycling more containers than nearly any other system in the United States. We are proud of those accomplishments and ask that the Legislature keep the bottle bill intact without adding new taxes or burdensome regulations that threaten a system cherished by Oregonians.

Thank you,

-Danelle Romain & Mike Freese, Oregon Beer & Wine Distributors Association (OBWDA)