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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB992

I live very near the Bottle Redemption Center at 122nd and Glisan and I am living with the real impacts of giving "daily or near daily redeemers" of cans access to ready cash which has resulted in an extremely active drug market. The negative impacts of this open air drug market, literally steps from the Bottle Drop, have rendered our major transit hub unsafe, created vacancies in our retail centers and cause residents to feel fearful when leaving their homes.

It appears this revised bill potentially allows mobile bottle return trucks to operate anywhere in the city, which would give "Daily redeemers" even more access to ready cash. It also appears the bill allows redemption centers/mobile redemption centers in any zone - commercial, industrial or residential since the criteria is convenience for daily or near daily can redeemers.

In other words, mobile redemption sites could roll into any neighborhood bringing a ready supply of cash. And it will give those suffering from acute addiction disorder even more easy access to get cash for drugs. There is nothing that would prevent non-profits from rolling their mobile redemption operations into impoverished neighborhoods, like mine, creating more magnets for drug activity.

This state bill solves one problem for one set of Portlanders (mostly downtown) but has the potential to embed the problem in other Portlanders' neighborhoods. Portlanders who may not have the political power or funds to mitigate issues mobile redemption centers could create, nor do they have the lobbying ability of the OBRC.

The interests centered in this bill are the OBRC, large retailers, non-profits and the daily or near daily can redeemers. The interests absent from this bill are the Portlanders who are impacted by the outcomes of an active drug market centered on cash payments as a result of Oregon's bottle return system as well as the people suffering from addiction disorder living on the streets with easy access to funding for their addiction.

In fact, this impacts everyone, not just neighborhoods (which tend to be very diverse and economically challenged) unfortunate enough to have redemption center nearby because people suffering from acute fentanyl addiction are overwhelming our healthcare system, our social justice system, and our emergency response services. This change to the Bottle bill is a pretty big deal and should qualify for a lot more

discussion and public engagement before getting pushed through.