

Testimony on SB 992

Ann Naughton, Portland, OR

Dear Representatives and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Ann Naughton, with Naughton Dental in East Portland. One block from the BottleDrop at Glisan and 122nd.

I am here to express serious concerns about SB 992. This bill does not address the significant impact that BottleDrops, bottle redemption centers (like Safeway, Target, and Fred Meyer), and the proposed “Alternative Access Redemption Centers” have on surrounding communities. While the bill proposes shifting redemption sites, it does not solve the core issues. It simply moves them. The problems of crime, drug activity, and declining livability remain.

Every day near our business and separately, now to a lesser degree at our house, we witness:

- People using drugs after redeeming cans for immediate cash, then passing out or overdosing nearby. Some have died.
- Gun violence, stolen cars, and stabbings. Almost all tied to drug activity.
- Tent encampments, bus shelters filled with passed out individuals and shopping carts, while vulnerable people stand outside the bus shelter and wait to use public transit.
- Police have confirmed that livability crimes are spiking around these centers.

The bill must be strengthened in three ways:

1. **Address the immediacy of cash for cans.** The Green Bag program sends money from can returns to an account. A model that might reduce the quick cash to drug cycle.
2. **Support large retailers.** Safeway and Target managers (Washington County) report major resources spent on staffing, cleaning and managing their bottle redemption related activity. Yet their locations fall just outside the bill’s proposed zones.
3. **Reinstate ID checks.** We regularly see Washington residents redeeming cans illegally at our BottleDrop. ID checks at the door would help enforce existing laws.

Though SB 992 is titled a *state* bill, it applies only to cities over 500,000. Meaning Portland alone. Yet cities like Hillsboro, Forest Grove, Bend, Eugene and others face similar problems. Businesses are closing, and nearby neighborhoods are deteriorating statewide. Shifting redemption centers without addressing root causes will only relocate crime and drug activity. The zoning impacts on residential and business districts need to be evaluated.

In closing, SB 992 is not ready. I urge you to:

- Address immediate cash access
- Include impacts on large retailers
- Reinstate ID checks to block out-of-state use
- Broaden the bill’s scope to reflect statewide impacts. Not just Portland.

Thank you,

Ann Naughton
Naughton Dental