

Testimony SB 992 - oppose

Dear Representatives,

I encourage you to oppose this bill. The interests centered in this bill are the OBRC, the non profits and the daily or near daily can redeemers. The interests absent from this bill are the person addicted to drugs in need of cash and Portlanders who are impacted with the outcomes of an active drug market centered on cash payments as a result of Oregon's bottle return system. See Hazelwood, Mill Park areas of Portland. This has the potential to embed mobile can redemption sites in residential neighborhoods that do not have the political power of downtown Portland residents nor the lobbying power of the OBRC. Residents impacted are sidelined in the decision making criteria as this bill is written.

Two purposes of the bottle return can be held at the same time. To help low income Portlanders supplement their incomes and as a bank for addicted individuals to receive the cash that allows them to buy their drug of choice.

To ignore the latter is to ignore why, in part, this bill even exists which is to help downtown Portland residents and retailers manage the drug markets as a result of cash available from bottle returns.

Portland police on April 22 2025 ran a mission around the 122nd and Glisan OBRC Bottle return. 18 individuals were taken into custody. 8 felony arrests were made. On any given day one can drive 122nd and see people selling/ scoring drugs, using drugs, unconscious from drug use, with the source of the cash being the OBRC bottle return.

This bill opens up the placement of a bottle return, mobile bottle return in any zone - including residential as long as the site offers convenience for retailers and daily can redeemers, neighbors livability and potential impacts are ignored.

**3(f) (g)will be located in an area that will provide more convenient service given the proximity of the location to the dealers within the convenience zones to be served by the redemption center; and
(g) Such other provisions to ensure that the alternative access redemption center will provide alternative redemption access**

opportunities for individuals who redeem empty beverage containers on a daily or near daily basis."

In this bill an outreach plan must to submitted to state representatives of the district where the proposed bottle redemption center and mobile units will operate but with neighbors lived experience and potential livability impacts not part of the criteria for decision making this is purely performative. May plays a key role in the sentence. Section 9 (7)

(7) The commission shall provide the opportunity for public comment before concluding under subsection (3) or (6) of this section that a full-service redemption center provides a convenient service to the public for the redemption of beverage containers. The commission may consider public comment when determining whether a full-service redemption center provides a convenient service to consumers for the return of empty beverage containers.

This bill is a search for solutions while ignoring the facts. It creates a potential for a mobile bottle redemption center to roll up into any residential neighborhood. With it comes the chaos of drug markets as shown by the Glisan and downtown bottle return experiences. There is built into it strong motivation for participation from nonprofits. a constant funding stream that could be used to employ formerly homeless individuals. That is a very strong reason to participate and has good outcomes for all except for the person still addicted on the street. Why is there no requirement for outreach for mental/behavioral health workers to be there while the mobile unit is operating or at the site? This bill, as written, creates the circumstance where an equivalent of a mobile ATM rolls up to an addicted persons door and then drives off. Is this really helping the addicted individual? It just takes down one more impediment between the user and their drug of choice.

As written this is bad policy that will cause more harm than good. Please oppose the passage of SB 992.

Lin Felton
Portland resident