

Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Levy and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment,

While I strongly believe there is a great need for more access to redemption centers for bottle/can returns, I also appreciate the concern from residents near these redemption centers who are exposed to an increase in drug-related crime near these centers.

I support this bill – we must make it easier for people to return bottles in order for Oregon's Bottle Bill to continue to be effective. As someone who participates in our monthly community clean-ups in The Dalles, I can attest to the fact that the vast majority of the litter we pick up is plastic. There would certainly be much more such trash were it not for the Bottle Bill.

But a big part of making it easier for people to return bottles is making redemption centers safe. That is the component that seems to be missing from this bill. Can it be amended to include protections for area residents, for people using the redemption centers, and for drug users who frequent these redemption centers as a way to get cash to pay for their next drug purchase?

Thank you to those working on solutions to these issues. Please continue the effort to find a solution that works for all.

Debi Ferrer  
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