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January 27, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Coalition for High Performance Recycling Lauds Bipartisan Effort to Modernize
Recycling in Washington State**

SB 5502 and HB 1607 create a Recycling Refund program

OLYMPIA- The [Coalition for High Performance Recycling](#) (CHPR), a diverse coalition of companies and organizations promoting a comprehensive approach to producer-funded recycling, applauds the introduction of Senate Bill 5502 and House Bill 1607. The bipartisan bills, introduced by Senators June Robinson (D-Everett) and Sharon Shewmake (D-Bellingham) and Representatives Monica Stonier (D-Vancouver) and Kevin Waters (R-Stevenson), would create a Recycling Refund program, also known as a Deposit Return System (DRS) or “bottle bill,” for Washington State.

A Recycling Refund program places a refund value on beverage containers to encourage consumers to return empty beverage containers, such as aluminum, glass, or plastic bottles and cans, in exchange for a monetary refund. Containers are then collected, cleaned, and recycled or reused, significantly increasing recycling rates, greatly boosting bottle-to-bottle and can-to-can closed-loop recycling, enabling brands to meet Washington State’s minimum post-consumer recycled content standards, all while reducing litter and carbon emissions, and minimizing the need to produce new beverage containers.

“These Recycling Refund bills, combined with the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation sponsored by Representative Berry (D-Seattle) and Senator Lovelett (D-Anacortes), will bring a critically important recycling system to Washington and be part of the solution to stagnant and underperforming recycling rates, and the growing need for waste reduction,” said Dylan de Thomas, CHPR member and VP of Public Policy and Government Affairs for The Recycling Partnership. “This will lead to higher recycling rates and create a more circular and sustainable economy. CHPR applauds this legislation and urges lawmakers to support efforts to modernize Washington’s recycling system.”

CHPR supports Recycling Refund programs for beverage containers combined with EPR for packaging and paper products. With a more efficient and sustainable recycling model, Washington will make significant progress toward a more circular economy, creating jobs across the state while benefiting the environment.

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About CHPR

The Coalition for High Performance Recycling (CHPR) is a diverse group of consumer brands, environmental nonprofits, material manufacturers, packaging suppliers, and trade associations united in our mission to improve recycling systems across the country. Together, we are driving the future of recycling with policies that promote Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging and paper products, and Recycling Refunds (RR) – also known as Deposit Return Systems or “Bottle Bills” – for beverage containers. This collaborative approach advances a circular economy through a more efficient and sustainable recycling model, benefiting the economy and environment.