

Washington State Senate
Environment & Energy Committee Meeting
January 29, 2025

Thank you, Chair Shewmake and members of the committee. My name is Megan Lane, and I represent the Coalition for High Performance Recycling - or CHPR, for short. We are here in support of Senate Bill 5502 especially when paired with the EPR bill, SB 5284.

CHPR is a diverse coalition of consumer brands, environmental groups, material manufacturers, packaging suppliers, and trade associations, united in our mission to improve recycling systems nationwide. We advocate for policies that promote EPR for packaging and paper products, along with 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.

Here's why a Recycling Refund program is essential for Washington:

1. **Proven Success in High Recycling Rates:** Today 9 of top 10 states with the highest recycling rates have implemented Recycling Refunds. These only represent 27% of the U.S. population and yet they account for over 50% of all beverage containers recycled nationally
2. **Achieving Global Best Practices in Recycling:** Globally, these programs achieve recovery rates of 90% or higher—something EPR alone cannot match. Based on modeling, SB 5502 could help Washington achieve a 75% recycling rate by 2028 and 90% by 2030.
3. **Enhancing Closed-Loop Recycling and Emissions Reduction:** Recycling Refunds ensure clean, high-quality material streams, boosting closed-loop recycling and reducing the need for virgin materials. If EPR+RR are implemented together, closed-loop recycling of beverage containers could rise from 20% to 78%, and reduce packaging-related greenhouse gas emissions by 70%.
4. **Strengthen Washington's economy:** Together these policies will increase recycling rates and could create \$1.3 billion in annual economic benefits for Washington

We continue to work to address concerns from key stakeholders within Washington and are committed to ongoing dialogue.

We urge the committee to pass SB 5502 and continue leading Washington toward high-performance recycling. Thank you for your time, and I'm happy to answer any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Megan Lane
Coalition for High Performance Recycling