

Washington State Senate
Environment & Energy Committee Meeting
February 3, 2025

Thank you, Chair Doglio 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 House Bill 1607 especially when paired with the EPR bill, HB 1150.

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 also known as Deposit Return Systems. This collaborative approach delivers the best economic, social, and environmental outcomes.

Here's why a Recycling Refunds are essential for Washington:

1. **Proven Success in High Recycling Rates:** Today 9 of top 10 states with the highest recycling rates have 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, this policy could enable Washington to achieve a 75% recycling rate by 2028 and 90% by 2030.
3. **Enhancing Closed-Loop Recycling and Emissions Reduction:** This policy ensures clean, high-quality material streams, in Washington closed-loop recycling of beverage containers could rise from 20% to 78%, and reduce packaging-related emissions by 70%.
4. **Strengthen Washington's economy:** Together these policies could create \$1.3 billion in annual economic benefits for Washington

We urge the committee to pass HB 1607. Thank you for your time, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Megan Lane
Coalition for High Performance Recycling