

Businesses Urge Support for Washington State Recycling Refund Program *New poll shows high support for program among Washington voters*

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Olympia, WA — December 4, 2025 — A [broad coalition](#) of businesses and industry associations with deep connections to Washington State’s communities and economy are urging Governor Bob Ferguson and state lawmakers to enact a Recycling Refund program to complement the recently passed Recycling Reform Act (SB 5284).

In a [letter](#) delivered to Governor Ferguson, more than 50 signatories, including local Washington State businesses, leading beverage producers, consumer brands, material and packaging manufacturers, recyclers, and trade associations, including the [Coalition for High Performance Recycling \(CHPR\)](#), expressed strong support for [SB 5502](#) and [HB 1607](#), legislation that would create a modernized Recycling Refund program, also known as a Deposit Return System (DRS) or “Bottle Bill,” for beverage bottles and cans.

"At this pivotal moment in Washington’s proud tradition of environmental stewardship, we offer our partnership and expertise to help advance recycling policies that are both environmentally effective and economically practical," the letter said.

Currently, too much recyclable packaging ends up as litter and plastic pollution in Washington’s waterways, parks, and streets. This pollution not only harms Washington’s environment, it also costs taxpayers. Currently in Washington, more than 26 million pounds of litter is collected along our roads and highways, [costing the state](#) \$12 million per year in cleanup costs.

The signatories emphasized that pairing the new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system with a modern Recycling Refund program would unlock the full potential of comprehensive recycling reform, delivering a reliable domestic supply of clean, high-quality materials needed to make new bottles and cans from recycled ones.

The Recycling Reform Act alone will not enable beverage container circularity at scale, and materials collected in curbside recycling contain contamination that make it difficult to remanufacture them into food-grade products. A Recycling Refund program could achieve return rates for beverage containers between [80-90 percent](#).

“Producer leadership with government oversight...has meaningful potential to improve recycling, expanding access for citizens, reducing costs for municipalities and taxpayers, and promoting efficiencies for businesses,” the letter said.

This growing support reflects the position of Washington voters. According to a [poll](#) conducted by GBAO Strategies, 67% of voters statewide support a Recycling Refund program, including 74% of Democrats, 65% of Independents, and 59% of Republicans.

The letter urged Governor Ferguson and legislative partners to take the next bold step in Washington’s recycling leadership by supporting SB 5502 and HB 1607.

A full copy of the letter sent to Governor Ferguson can be found [here](#).

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About [The Coalition for High Performance Recycling \(CHPR\)](#):

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 enables high performance recycling, benefiting our economy and our environment.