

December 3, 2025

Governor Bob Ferguson  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

**Businesses Support a Recycling Refund Program in Washington State to  
Unlock the Full Potential of Comprehensive EPR**

Dear Governor Ferguson,

We, the undersigned, represent businesses with deep connections to the Washington State economy and significant interests in recycling, including leading consumer brands, product packaging manufacturers, packaging material suppliers, and recycling technology companies. 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 across our value chains.

Earlier this year, your Administration and partners in the House and Senate enacted legislation focused on supporting curbside recycling in Washington. The Recycling Reform Act (SB 5284), which you signed into law May 17, 2025, will establish an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for packaging and paper products beginning in 2030. Producer leadership with government oversight—a key feature of the Recycling Reform Act—has meaningful potential to improve recycling, expanding access for citizens, reducing costs for municipalities and taxpayers, and promoting efficiencies for businesses. We are encouraged by this approach and commend your ongoing commitment to making Washington a leader in recycling.

Looking ahead to 2026, we support complementary legislation, SB 5502/HB 1607. These counterpart bills would add a Recycling Refund program (also known as a Bottle Bill or Deposit Return System) for plastic, glass, and aluminum beverage containers to Washington EPR. Together with the Recycling Reform Act, SB 5502/HB 1607 would establish a comprehensive, high-performance EPR program, pairing curbside recycling with Recycling Refunds that incentivize consumers to recycle their bottles and cans.

Ten U.S. states already operate Recycling Refund programs, and the data is clear: they reduce beverage container litter by up to 84 percent and can achieve return rates over

90 percent<sup>1</sup> (versus 34 percent national beverage container recycling rate<sup>2</sup>). Modernized Recycling Refund programs like Oregon’s—akin to what SB 5502/HB 1607 would enact in Washington—regularly achieve return rates in the 80-90 percent range.<sup>3</sup>

Furthermore, as our businesses, which include various parts of the beverage industry value chain, strive for a system in which new beverage containers are made from recycled beverage containers, we must emphasize that the Recycling Reform Act alone will not enable beverage container circularity at scale. Curbside recycling results in unacceptable levels of contamination of the collected materials, significantly limiting their capacity to be used to make new food-grade bottles and cans. In contrast, a Recycling Refund program would deliver a reliable domestic supply of clean and high-quality materials that can be used to manufacture new beverage containers.

We urge your Administration and legislative partners to take the next bold step in Washington’s recycling leadership by supporting SB 5502/HB 1607. This legislation is essential to realizing the full promise of comprehensive EPR—pairing curbside recycling with a modernized Recycling Refund program. We stand ready to collaborate and lend our expertise to help make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

Airbnb  
American Distilled Spirits Alliance  
Anchor Glass Container LLC  
Arbor Crest Wine Cellars  
Arconic Corporation  
Ardagh Glass Packaging  
Ardagh Metal Packaging S.A.  
Association of Plastic Recyclers  
Ball Corporation  
Bold Reuse  
Can Manufacturers Institute  
Coalition for High Performance Recycling  
Constellium  
Container Recycling Institute

Copperworks Distilling Company  
CROWN Holdings, Inc.  
DeLille Cellars  
Desert Wind Winery  
Diageo North America  
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States  
Double Mountain Brewery and Cidery  
Encora Enterprises, Inc.  
ENVASES  
Fortuity Cellars  
Free Flow Wines  
Gard Vintners  
Glass Packaging Institute  
Good To Go Cups

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<sup>1</sup> *Redemption Rates and Other Features of 10 U.S. State Beverage Container Deposit Programs*, Container Recycling Institute, available at [https://www.bottlebill.org/images/Allstates/10\\_states\\_Redemption\\_Rates\\_080125.pdf](https://www.bottlebill.org/images/Allstates/10_states_Redemption_Rates_080125.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> *Beverage Container Recycling Fast Facts*, Container Recycling Institute (updated July 2024), available at <https://www.container-recycling.org/index.php/key-facts>.

<sup>3</sup> *How Bottle Bills Compare*, Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative, available at <https://obrc.com/results/how-bottle-bills-compare/>.

Heaven Hill Brands  
International Bottled Water Association  
Kaiser Aluminum  
L'Ecole No 41 Winery  
Mark Anthony Brands Inc.  
Morso Bistro and Wine Market  
Novelis  
O-I Glass  
Olipop  
Open Water  
Pernod Ricard  
PPG Industries, Inc.  
Precept Wine & Spirits  
Primo Brands  
Red Bull

Retrocycle  
Revino  
Revolusation  
Rotie Cellars  
r.World  
Schilling Cider  
Ste Michelle Wine Estates  
The Aluminum Association  
Thurston Wolfe Winery  
Tri-Arrows Aluminum, Inc.  
Washington Beer & Wine Distributors  
Association  
Washington Hosts Collaborative Alliance  
Washington Wine Institute  
Wine Institute

cc: The Honorable Jamie Pedersen, Majority Leader  
The Honorable John Braun, Minority Leader  
The Honorable Laurie Jenkins, Speaker of the House  
The Honorable Drew Stokesbary, Minority Leader  
The Honorable Sharon Shewmake, Chair Senate Environment, Energy & Technology  
Committee  
The Honorable Beth Doglio, Chair House Environment and Energy Committee  
The Honorable June Robinson, Chair Senate Ways & Means Committee  
The Honorable Monica Stonier, House Floor Leader