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Bottle Bill Task Force
c/o Sandy Thiele Cirka
900 Court St NE, Room 453
Salem OR 97301

Dear Bottle Bill Task Force Members:

The Lane County Board of County Commissioners noted a recent article in the Eugene Register Guard concerning your work to date. At this point we'd like to submit the following comments:

- The current practice that limits retailers to accept only those containers they sell should be eliminated in favor of redemption outlets that accept all containers that have a deposit value.
- An expanded list of beverage containers should be covered under the law, including those utilized to contain wine, liquor, tea, flavored coffees, and sports drinks.
- The redemption system should be funded from un-redeemed container values. To ensure accountability and transparency, the system should have an oversight board and regular, public auditing.
- The concept of a trial period for the study of a redemption system appears un-necessary when similar systems have long been in place.

Lane County, like other counties in Oregon, operates a network of public transfer stations that by law must provide the opportunity for recycling to the users of the sites. These sites enjoy use by people with no access to curbside collection programs, or who simply would rather haul their own discards for disposal and recycling. If funded appropriately, we could envision a scenario whereby these sites are utilized as redemption centers for used beverage containers, thereby adding convenience into a system that is desperately in need of added convenience. The concept of 90 redemption centers in a state as large as Oregon sounds completely inadequate. We would urge you to explore what it would take to augment the current industry proposal with the inclusion of the already existing public and private infrastructure that exists in terms of recycling drop off and processing, rather than limiting your discussion to a system completely and solely managed by the beverage industry. Towards that end, we would be willing to provide County data that might assist in that analysis.

On behalf of the entire Board of County Commissioners, thank you for your hard work on this important issue, and for accepting our comments.

Sincerely,

Faye Stewart, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

Draft Minutes
Lane County Legislative Committee Meeting
August 7, 2008
Bob Straub Conference Room

Present: Commissioner Bill Dwyer, Commissioner Pete Sorenson, Rob Rockstroh, Don Hillman, Alex Cuyler

Alex Cuyler outlined the draft document outlining an agreement to develop a United Front-like approach to state legislation. Commissioner Dwyer expressed concern about taking positions jointly on a bill only to have it amended in a way that we no longer favor. He suggested only adopting joint positions if a bill has reached the floor of the House or the Senate. Commissioner Sorenson was concerned about areas of conflict with the other SEL partners, but was supportive of how this has worked at the federal level. Rob Rockstroh suggested that the budget bills were where the most importance was for Lane County. Those present discussed several of the suggested bills including metal theft and changes to the initiative process. No final direction was provided to staff.

The memos from Alex Cuyler regarding dissolution of the Metro Wastewater Service District and ORS 190 entities were discussed. Commissioners Dwyer and Sorenson asked that this issue come to the Board, with their interest specifically in allowing this service district to be re-formulated to provide a different purpose without a vote.

The ORS 190 issue was not supported by either Commissioners Sorenson or Dwyer. Discussion included concern about creating additional organizations drawing off a limited pool of dollars. It was agreed that this issue would not be forwarded to the Board.

The draft letter to the Bottle Bill Task Force was passed out and discussed. Commissioner Dwyer suggested bringing it to the full Board for discussion and saw the benefit of using it as an example of the way legislative process works within the County organization, with the outcome being that additional staff will engage with the Legislative Committee.

The draft comment to the Western Climate Initiative as passed out and discussed. This comment was agreed upon and given the short time frame until the comment period closes (8/13) it was suggested this letter be placed onto the consent calendar for the next BCC meeting.

Discussion turned to the County's position regarding the abandonment of the Coos Bay Line of the Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad. Alex Cuyler indicated he'd developed a letter confirming Chair Stewart and Commissioner Fleenor as being the County's representatives for the Surface Transportation Board meeting to be held in Eugene on August 21. Commissioner Dwyer suggested contacting the Attorney General's office for additional legal assistance.

The final item discussed was the certified list of ballot measures qualified for the November, 2008 general election. Alex Cuyler outlined the regulatory structure around public employees speaking for or against these measures versus how elected officials speak of the measures. Commissioner Sorenson outlined his position on each of the measures and suggested that the item come to the full Board for a County position on the measures.

Next meeting was tentatively set for September 4, 9:00 AM-10:30, with an effort to maintain a first Thursday of the month schedule until the 2009 session begins.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.