



OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 3145-2

April 26, 2011

The Grocery Manufacturers Association¹ respectfully opposes HB 3145-2, because it unnecessarily expands Oregon's mandatory deposit program to include virtually every product intended for human consumption. For example, the bill appears to cover an unprecedented number of new items like liquid over the counter drugs, prescriptions, condiments, maple syrup, and an endless number of products in like containers.

GMA and its member companies support the goal of increased recycling and environmental responsibility. In our commitment to environmental responsibility, we have made a considerable effort over the past several years to reduce the amount of packaging in the waste stream. Where safe and cost competitive, GMA members recycle and use recycled materials and employ the latest technology to enhance their commitment to environmental responsibility.

Through source reduction, the beverage container industry has reduced the volume and weight of packaging without compromising safety and performance. Over the past several decades, manufacturers have realized weight reductions of up to 30 percent or more in aluminum and steel cans and in glass and plastic bottles. For example, from 1972 to 1992, the weight of 12-fluid ounce aluminum cans was reduced by 22 percent. Steel beverage cans, which have steel sides and aluminum ends, have also been downsized and are now 40 percent lighter than they were in 1970. PET plastic has also been reduced and two-liter plastic soft drink bottles are now 25 percent lighter than they were in 1977.

There is no articulable reason for this unprecedented expansion of Oregon's bottle bill program and for the reasons stated above, we ask that Oregon legislators oppose HB 3145-2.

If you have any questions, please contact John Hewitt, Western Region Director, 916.447.9425 or jhewitt@gmaonline.org.

¹ Based in Washington, D.C., the Grocery Manufacturers Association is the voice of more than 300 leading food, beverage and consumer product companies that sustain and enhance the quality of life for hundreds of millions of people in the United States and around the globe.

Founded in 1908, GMA is an active, vocal advocate for its member companies and a trusted source of information about the industry and the products consumers rely on and enjoy every day. The association and its member companies are committed to meeting the needs of consumers through product innovation, responsible business practices and effective public policy solutions developed through a genuine partnership with policymakers and other stakeholders.

In keeping with its founding principles, GMA helps its members produce safe products through a strong and ongoing commitment to scientific research, testing and evaluation and to providing consumers with the products, tools and information they need to achieve a healthy diet and an active lifestyle.

The food, beverage and consumer packaged goods industry in the United States generates sales of \$2.1 trillion annually, employs 14 million workers and contributes \$1 trillion in added value to the economy every year.