

**January 12, 2020 - My Letter to Legislature:**

**Washington State Needs a “Container Bill” to Protect the Environment and to Create Local Revenues and Jobs.**

To quote Susan Collin’s February 6, 2019 [letter](#) In Opposition to HB 1795, “Washington Would Reap Huge Benefits from Implementing a Container Deposit Law.” She also speaks of both our neighbors to the north and south having container deposits, both with recycling rates of 80% or higher. It is known that having deposits also reduces litter dramatically. And as British Columbia now looks to include “dairy” containers in their container deposits, Washington has an opportunity, this year, to lead the way for the United States. Having a container deposit, on more than just beverages, will create feedstock viability, restore consumer confidence in recycling, generate revenues, bring in new jobs and opportunities all over the state, all the while drastically reducing litter.

It is my hope that the Department of Ecology’s new Recycling Development Center (Center) will play a large role in the education of consumers and waste stream users to bring down contaminants in recycling. With a container deposit in place, the Center can do further work with producers to put out a standard, more recyclable product with the deposit in mind. The Center will also help promote and launch new startup businesses in collection, re-production and sale of recycled feedstock within Washington. We, with the Center, have a unique opportunity to be national leaders in taking a stand against waste, with solutions that work, establishing value in what is currently trashed.

On the topic of glass recycling, keep it as a separate collection source as to not contaminate other valuable feedstock and for the safety of people in general. And by bottles having deposits, collection of glass as a whole, is more likely.

It is imperative that we have a clear plan for all of Washington, we can do this in the demonstration of value by having a deposit. This will help straighten any confusion in what is recyclable and what is not, while implementing change that not only brings people together but brings jobs locally and revenues local.

This shift is fundamental in remaining the Evergreen State. Please help by enacting a container deposit for recyclables.

Thank you and green regards, Michelle Sue Ross

P.S. Best recycling standard known to date: <https://recyclingsimplified.com/expert-tips/>