Rebecca E Jewell

Indeed, I agree with many commenters with the general sentiment that "change is hard," and "people are lazy." But I don't think these are reasons not to move forward into the 21st century with legitimate EPR and bottle bill legislation.
There are downstream benefits of a **WELL WRITTEN** bottle bill:
1) it could incentivize Washington-based-businesses to start new businesses using clean materials streams which could lead to new employment opportunities, reduce truck transport of materials that leave the state of WA for markets in other states
2) it could provide income streams to the working poor & the homeless
3) it could help reduce litter because the working poor & homeless can cash in on the wastefulness of others
4) it could incentivize garbage collectors to sort the trash before landfilling materials in order to recover the items residents put in the trash and receive the income. This could lead to garbage companies also recover other non-bottle-bill items (because they're already looking at the trash) for other materials
5) it could provide funding to state programs focused on waste, litter, or/and the environment

Please, oh prettiest of pretty please, look at and learn from the downfalls and shortcomings of the other bottle bills across the USA. They have made mistakes that we do not need to recreate.

The grocery stores have legitimate concerns at being the point-of-redemption for bottles & cans. The bottle bill can be a boon for folks who could use the extra income, but stolen grocery carts full of bottles & cans picked up along side the freeway turning up in parking lots adjacent to redemption centers are not idea.

There must be a better way.

This isn't rocket science, but it's also not simple.

What is easy is seldom excellent. Change is hard. People are lazy. And we can do this. I have faith in you.