

## Madeline Lyne

I am a proponent of a recycling refunds program in Washington. Research shows that regions with these programs see less beverage container litter and much higher recycling rates. The containers gathered through this system result in cleaner materials that are easier to reuse because they are separated from household waste. We have a huge roadside litter problem in Washington. I have seen first hand, as an Adopt-A-Highway volunteer since 2019, how many plastic water bottles, aluminum soda, beer, cocktail, cider cans, and glass hard alcohol bottles I have picked up on Highway 14 in Camas, East Vancouver and Washougal. Proper education of citizens is paramount to counter the bottling industry's (and some legislator's who may be influenced by lobbyists) scare tactics that redemption centers breed undesirable people and that homeless people will use the refund money to buy drugs. I've heard that unfounded scenario from a Washington State legislator from my district. A successful program has to be thoughtfully designed with convenience as a tantamount concern taking into account where citizens live, modes of transportation available, hours of operation, and location of redemption sites and the logistics of mobile sites. I am a staunch advocate of holding producers of these containers responsible as well to make these programs financially feasible. Establishing a recycling redemption program in Washington is a necessary step to address our state's unacceptable litter problem and an approach proven to work in other states.