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The study does a good job of synthesizing the data that have been collected so far. However, I think it may be missing valuable perspectives from communities that are most affected by beverage container waste and communities that have historically opposed bottle bills (I see these as separate groups with some overlap).

First, so my bias is clear, I personally think the goals of a container deposit program are (1) to improve recovery of valuable materials that can replace virgin materials when creating products and (2) to reduce litter and the harm it can bring to communities. It does this by making the value of those materials explicit and non-negotiable.

Going back to the study, it's unclear to me how the beverage container waste problem (the recovery opportunity) is distributed across the state. Where is most container litter ending up now? The study found that 75% of survey respondents already recycle. I would guess that this population contributes relatively less to the litter problem. So I wonder if the study could be expanded to include more respondents who don't currently recycle. We could probably learn more about how that litter is created in the first place. If we don't understand that well enough, I am concerned that the system may prioritize the wrong areas and populations, limiting its effectiveness.

The other data point that caught my attention was that 58% of those surveyed were likely to participate. This raised an eyebrow because I know that bottle bills have been defeated in WA several times over the past half century, the most recent stalling in committee this year. I would guess that if it were put to a popular vote right now that the law would be defeated again. So I wonder if the study could be expanded to include respondents who would oppose it, especially those who opposed it in the past, if possible. I think this could help inform whether it's the right investment for WA as a whole as well as the program design. Perhaps there could be an expanded consumer education period, for example, before rollout.

Thank you for listening. I personally hope that we can find ways to attach explicit value to materials and reduce the harm litter can bring to our communities and environment.