



**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE
HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

February 1, 2024

In Support

HB 2144 Providing for a deposit return program for qualifying beverage containers to be implemented by a distributor responsibility organization.

Representative Berg and honorable members of the Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2144.

My name is Liz Donohue, and I am the Director of Government Relations for BlueTriton. Our business includes a 175-year legacy of trusted brands including the Arrowhead® Brand, and our home and office delivery service ReadyRefresh®. We honor the dignity and hard work of our approximately 7000 employees and strive to be fiercely good to the communities we operate in.

At BlueTriton we are working to minimize our environmental impact through more sustainable packaging, incorporating more recycled materials into packaging, and establishing more effective recycling systems.

We use PET bottles because they are lighter to transport, result in lower emissions and use less water in the manufacturing process. In 2023, approximately 27% of our plastic PET bottles were made from recycled plastic – which is twice the industry average. Last year we introduced 100% recycled plastic 700mL and 1L bottles. By 2025, all BlueTriton products will be in packaging that is either reusable or made from an average of 35% recycled materials.

BlueTriton is working to foster a dynamic circular economy where bottles are recycled directly into bottles, ever-increasing the recycled content in our portfolio. But we can't create a circular economy or generate more recycled feedstock on our own.

Creating a deposit return system will dramatically increase the availability of material for all types of beverage containers. Bottled water needs high quality material – a deposit return system is the best way to recover high quality food grade plastic, reprocess that plastic, and use it again.

We support the adoption of a smart and well-designed recycling refund policy that establishes a convenient system optimized to avoid yield loss, achieve high return rates and bottle to bottle recycling – exactly what HB 2144 offers.

As seen in Oregon, a deposit return system is the most cost-effective strategy to increase recycling in a way that benefits both consumers and business.

Furthermore, it is better for industry and the environment to meet Washington's post-consumer recycled materials requirement with a stable, locally sourced supply of recycled materials, rather than importing materials.

HB 2144 presents an opportunity to address a business and environmental problem with a convenient and cost-effective solution that will increase recycling and foster bottle to bottle recycling. With passage of HB2144 Washington can help catapult us all towards a circular economy. Thank you.



BLUETRITON

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