

## **Reader Theater Script for Oregon Bottle Bill Hearing (Attachment D)**

**Chairperson Charley:** Welcome to the hearing on House Bill 1036, known as the Oregon Bottle Bill. We have a lot of people here today. If you want to testify, make sure that you sign the sheet as you enter the hearing room. Include your full name and whether you are testifying in support or against the bill. Committee members may be asking you questions after you have testified. Please make sure to limit your comments to no longer than two minutes.

I would first like to call on Richard Chambers.

**Mr. Chambers:** Chairperson Charley and committee members, my name is Richard Chambers and I support House Bill 1036. I am asking for your support today because of my love for Oregon. I love the outdoors and enjoy the forests and rivers. I noticed there is trash left all over the place by people who don't seem to care. The thing that bothers me most are the bottles and cans left behind. When I first started this campaign with House Bill 1157, I thought that everyone would agree with me. Since it didn't pass the first time, I am trying again. I have written a lot of letters and people have signed petitions. Today I brought some of those people with me to testify in support of the bill. I am asking the committee to vote yes on House Bill 1036 and send it to the House for debate and a vote. My hope is that this time it becomes law.

**Chairperson Charley:** Are there any follow-up questions for Mr. Chambers?

**Committee Member Marge:** Yes Chairperson Charley, I have a question. Mr. Chambers what are your ideas for helping the store owners to recycle the bottles and cans their customers will bring back to the store?

**Mr. Chambers:** We are proposing a plan that requires a refundable deposit for each bottle and can purchased. When the customer brings the empty containers back to the store, they get a deposit refund. The beverage companies would pick-up the empty bottles and cans and the deposit will help with costs. When a beverage company delivers a case of bottles or cans, they would pick up the empty cases that customers brought back. The only thing that the store owner would have to do is count the bottles and cans returned and store them until picked-up.

**Chairperson Charley:** Thank you for your testimony Mr. Chambers.

**Chairperson Charley:** The next name on the testimony sign-up sheet is Kathy Kayaker.

**Kathy Kayaker:** I love to kayak all over Oregon. Often my paddles hit bottles and cans that are floating in the water. I try to safely pick them up but most of the time they just float around making a mess. They spoil the water and sometimes I see fish trying to bite at them. The fish must think its food. It is so sad. I want my water and campgrounds clean and this bill will make that happen.

**Chairperson Charley:** Thank you for your testimony Kathy Kayaker.

**Chairperson Charley:** Pop Company Paul, would you like to address the committee?

**Pop Company Paul:** This bill is going to ruin my business. I deliver pop all over Oregon with my big semi-trucks that cost a lot of money to run. If this bill becomes a law, I will have a whole bunch of empty cans and bottles that I must get rid of. I just don't have the time to do that. The little bit of money that I will get with a deposit will not pay for my time and effort or pay for the gas to run my trucks.

**Chairperson Charley:** Committee Member Bill, do you have a question for Pop Company Paul?

**Committee Member Bill:** Do you think the new recycling center industry will help with the trash problem?

**Pop Company Paul:** I like clean campgrounds and streets like everyone else, but the cost is just too high for my business. It is not my job to pick up trash, it is my business to deliver beverages to the stores.

**Committee Member Tom:** Pop Company Paul, if you charge people a deposit that they get back when returning their cans, how is that going to make your prices go up?

**Pop Company Paul:** I would have to charge extra money to cover the cost of hauling the empties to recycling and that is a big cost.

**Chairperson:** Thank you for testifying Pop Company Paul.

**Chairperson:** Forest Ranger Frank would you like to speak?

**Forest Ranger Frank:** I love my job. I love being outdoors and working in the beautiful forests of Oregon. One thing I don't like is the mess that so many visitors make while they are out in the forests. Just the other day I had to pick up trash from 2 campgrounds. I counted over 100 cans and bottles left by people who had

come for the day. If there had been a deposit on those bottles and cans, I am sure they would have taken them back home with them and not left them behind. I want to see the Bottle Bill become law. Keep our rivers and forests clean for everyone to enjoy.

**Chairperson Charley:** I see we have another store owner here ready to testify. Pantry Joe, would you like to testify?

**Pantry Joe:** Thank you Chairperson Charley. I am the owner of a store. I challenged my costumers to bring me their bottles and cans. I offered to give them half a cent for each bottle and can that they brought to the store. I said I would love to be buried in litter. In two weeks, there were 150,000 cans returned to my store. I had to ask the Governor to help carry them all away and he had the National Guard come and pick them up. I think this bottle deposit idea will work.

**Chairperson Charley:** Is there anyone else who would like to speak?

**Dairy Farmer Doris:** I would like to add testimony. I have my two children with me, Dave and Diane, who help me with our dairy. They are also in a future farming club at their high school. Our cows graze on pasture and feed off the hay that we bail from our fields. Recently two of our cows died. When the veterinarian looked at them they had pieces of pop bottles and cans in their stomachs. I am here today to support this bill.

**Chairperson Charley:** Thank you for your testimony Dairy Farmer Doris.

**Chairperson Charley:** Dairy Son Dave and Dairy Daughter Diane, it's your turn to testify.

**Dairy Son Dave:** I am here to tell you that one of the cows that died was a prize cow I was going to show at the fair. This has got to stop. If bottles and cans are returned for money, people wouldn't just throw them away and I wouldn't have to worry about my cows getting sick and dying.

**Dairy Daughter Diane:** Our milking cows aren't just animals to us. They are our total income and part of our family. I love them and don't want to see any of them hurt again by someone throwing away their cans and bottles.

**Committee Member Representative Smith:** Do you have any proof that those pieces of bottles and cans killed your cows?

**Dairy Son Dave:** Yes, I brought my veterinarian with me to explain.

**Chairperson Charley:** Thank you for your testimony Dairy Son Dave and Dairy Daughter Diane.

**Chairperson Charley:** Victor the Vet, please come up and share your information.

**Victor the Vet:** I am here today to testify that I have kept the evidence. I had another vet check my findings. The two cows died from eating hay that had pieces of glass and aluminum in their feed.

**Chairperson Charley:** Thank you for sharing your information Victor the Vet.

**Chairperson Charley:** Hello Store Owner Sam. Please share your reason for being here today to testify?

**Store Owner Sam:** Thank you Chairman Charley. I would like to give the committee my own views on this bill. I love to be out in the forest too and go camping with my family. We don't like to see trash all over our campgrounds. However, this bill is going to bankrupt my business. I can't afford to hire someone to collect the bottles and cans from my customers and store for recycling. This will cost money that I don't have. I run my store by myself and one other person. If my customers bring all these containers back, I won't be able to handle the extra work and wait on my customers at the same time. I don't have extra space, so I would have to build a place to store the cans and bottles. I just don't have the money to do this.

**Chairperson Charley:** Do any of the committee members have questions for Store Owner Sam?

**Committee Member Marge:** Yes, I would like to ask Store Owner Sam if it would help if the beverage company picks up the bottles and cans each delivery?

**Store Owner Sam:** I don't have room to store the empties until the beverage company picks them up.

**Chairperson:** Thank you for your testimony Store Owner Sam.

**Chairperson:** I think we have enough testimony to take a vote on whether this bill should go to the House for debate and a vote. Thank you all for coming to testify today. Is the committee ready to vote?

*(Script written by Judith Lowery based on the information gathered from: Beverage Container Act. Author, Mark Henkels. Oregon Encyclopedia.org)*