

LES AUCOIN
1ST DISTRICT, OREGON



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

April 24, 1980

Dear Friend:

I thought you would be interested in having the text of testimony I gave today before the Subcommittee on Monopolies and Commercial Law of the House Judiciary Committee on a new national "Bottle Bill" initiative.

The subcommittee is considering legislation to exempt bottling companies from a Federal Trade Commission ruling that jeopardizes the bottlers' ability to keep exclusive local markets for brands of soft drinks they bottle.

Congressman Jim Jeffords of Vermont and I see in this legislation an opportunity to reverse a national trend toward throwaway beverage containers. We have urged the committee to amend the bill to require bottling companies to make available 10 percent of their bottled beverages in returnable bottles within one year of enactment of the law. The percentage would rise to 20 percent returnables in the second year, and then to 35 percent returnables in the third year. Bottlers who failed to meet the quotas would lose their exclusive market protection.

As one of the authors of Oregon's "Bottle Bill," the nation's first law to ban no-deposit, no-return containers entirely, my objective continues to be a deposit on 100 percent of the soft-drink containers marketed by the bottling industry. But the political reality is that it's a bad bet to expect throwaways to be outlawed overnight. The House Commerce Committee has refused repeatedly to report "Bottle Bill" legislation.

The amendment I've offered with Congressman Jeffords is a reasonable beginning. Hopefully, by taking our case to the Judiciary Committee, we'll be able to get moving on a national bottle-recycling bill.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LES AU COIN".

LES AU COIN
Member of Congress