

# End Litter Now: Pass A U.S. Container Bill

## WHY WE NEED A U.S. CONTAINER BILL

A national container deposit return program would create a simple system for the public to recycle their containers at stores, return centers, and reverse vending machine locations. This system reduces litter, creates jobs, increases the availability of recycled materials, and reduces impacts on the environment with proven policy. Saving resources saves money and protects natural spaces.

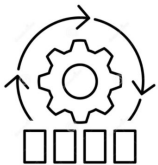
Here are a few benefits of this legislation:



In a 2020 national litter study, there was about twice as much more deposit-material litter per capita in non-bottle bill states than in bottle bill states. By this ratio, **the US could cut our litter in half if we had a national bottle bill.** (Source: [Keep America Beautiful](#))



A national container deposit-return program would **support nearly 100,000 US jobs** and create 11 to 38 times more jobs than a curbside recycling system for beverage containers. (Source: [Container Recycling Institute](#))



The revenue from unredeemed deposits would allow the U.S. and states to **invest billions of dollars** into improving our recycling systems and introduce recycling systems to **rural areas and recycling deserts.**



By cutting litter in half, **we can also cut the costs of litter clean-up in half.** The US spends \$11.5 billion each year on litter abatement – about \$9 billion of that expense is shouldered by U.S. businesses, while American taxpayers have to pay \$1.3 billion. (Source: [Keep America Beautiful](#))

## HOW IT WORKS

Incentive-based container deposit programs are easy, popular with consumers and businesses, and have been working for decades in many places across the country.

STEP  
1



STEP  
2



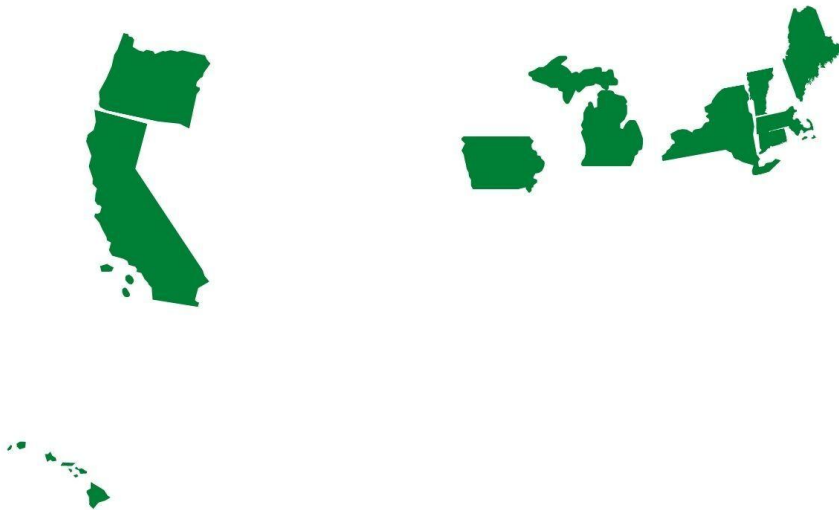
STEP  
3



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**75% of Americans support a bottle bill deposit program** where they live but only 24% of Americans live in a state with a bottle deposit program. (Source: [Keep America Beautiful's 2020 Litter Study](#))

## 10 STATES WITH BOTTLE DEPOSIT PROGRAMS



**States with bottle bills overwhelmingly recycle at much higher rates than states without bottle bills.** Nine of the top 12 recycling states have bottle bills. (Source: [Eunomia's The 50 States of Recycling report](#))

The national container bill will not preempt existing container deposit laws in the 10 states that currently have them (CA, CT, HI, IA, ME, MA, MI, NY, OR, VT). However, states that have bottle bills could opt-into the federal program should they wish to do so.

## RECYCLING RATES BY STATE



CCPM Recycling Rate without Cardboard

1 MAINE	72%
2 VERMONT	62%
3 MASSACHUSETTS	55%
4 OREGON	55%
5 CONNECTICUT	52%
6 NEW YORK	51%
7 MINNESOTA	49%
8 MICHIGAN	48%
9 NEW JERSEY	46%
10 IOWA	44%
11 CALIFORNIA	44%
12 WISCONSIN	44%
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38 ARKANSAS	14%
39 KENTUCKY	14%
40 NEBRASKA	14%
41 NEW MEXICO	13%
42 TEXAS	13%
43 ALABAMA	11%
44 OKLAHOMA	10%
45 MISSISSIPPI	8%
46 SOUTH CAROLINA	8%
47 TENNESSEE	7%
48 ALASKA	6%
49 LOUISIANA	4%
50 WEST VIRGINIA	2%

CCPM = Common Container & Packaging Material including plastics, glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans, and steel cans

Source: [Eunomia Study](#)