



RECYCLING ADVOCATES

FEBRUARY 2011

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Oregon Bottle Bill 40th Anniversary Celebration and Fundraiser: An Exciting Success

Elizabeth Goodman & Johnny Leuthold

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Oregon Bottle Bill. On January 27th, the Pear Gallery was abuzz as Bottle Bill sponsors, followers, and stewards joined host organizations Association of Oregon Recyclers, Recycling Advocates, and Environment Oregon for a celebration of Oregon's landmark legislation. The event commemorated the conception and passage of the bill and honored the key players involved in the original effort.

An enthusiastic crowd of honored guests and attendees included original players in Oregon's environmental movement, as well as those involved during the intervening decades. Thanks to our sponsors, donors, staff, and volunteers, attendees enjoyed local fare, beer, wine, and spirits as they renewed and made acquaintances, shared memories, made new connections, and found new opportunities to further environmental efforts in Oregon.

Honorees at the celebration included former Representative Paul Hanneman, friend of Richard Chambers, who introduced the idea of establishing a deposit system for certain beverage containers in Oregon, and co-sponsor of the original Bottle Bill; Don Waggoner, former Representative and Oregon Environmental Council member and OEC Pollution Control Committee member in 1971; and Representative Vicki Berger (daughter of Richard Chambers and a sponsor of the 2007 Bottle Bill legislation). Other distinguished guests included members of the 1971 legislature: Harl Hass, Al Densmore, Bill Markham, and Roger Martin; and current legislators, Senator Jackie Dingfelder,



Former Reps Don Waggoner and Paul Hanneman - Principals of the original Bottle Bills.

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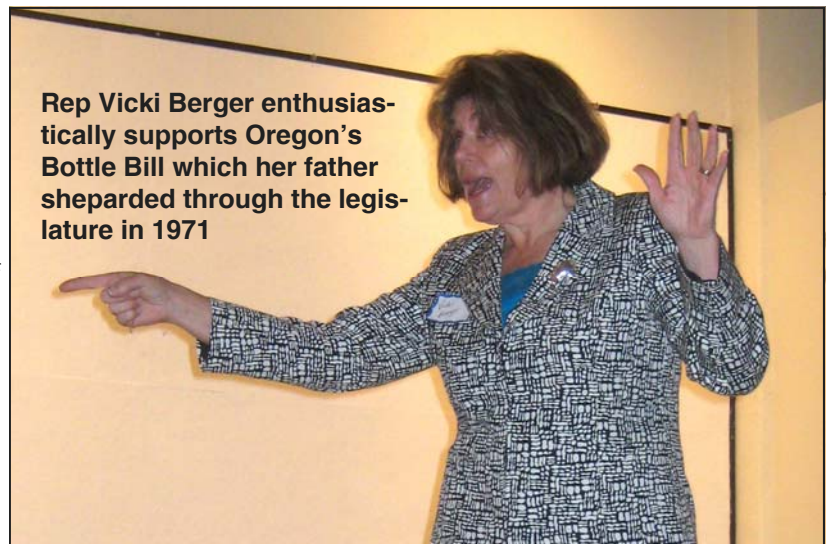
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Representative Margaret Doherty, and Representative Michael Dembrow.

Emcee Chris Taylor kept the program moving and lively, providing enthusiastic introductions and smooth segues. The host organizations honored Paul Hanneman, Don Waggoner, Harl Hass and Vicki Berger, all of whom spoke vividly of Richard Chambers' eureka moment, his tranquility-piercing Sunday morning phone call to Paul Hanneman, and their meeting in the intersection of a small coastal Oregon town. Though far removed in place and time from that remote, dusty intersection, this characteristically Oregon location has become the stuff of state legend. Whether the devil appeared, a deal was made, or a soul was sold, only Chambers and Hanneman will ever know, but the meeting set in motion an inexorable course—and a great cause. And who could help but draw inspiration for working to protect the environment, with such a colorful historical referent?

Following the milk-crate storytelling, toasting and roasting, Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian, who helped expand the Bottle Bill in 2007, closed the evening with a successful appeal to attendees to support the ongoing work of the host organizations by making a financial contribution. Jerry Powell added inspiration and incentive to give by offering a generous matching donation in the moment.

The passage of the Bottle Bill put Oregon on the national and international map as a leader in environmental conservation. In 1971, I was entering first grade halfway across the country. While I knew where Oregon was, thanks to the



Rep Vicki Berger enthusiastically supports Oregon's Bottle Bill which her father shepherded through the legislature in 1971

efforts of public kindergarten and a memorable wooden puzzle of the US that my mother used to teach my brother and me, I had no idea I would ever visit the state, much less attend college here or ultimately accept Oregon as my adopted state and settle in for the long run. My family values instilled in me respect for the environment, dislike of pollution and littering, and responsibility of keeping it clean—being a steward and not an offender. Still, as implementation of the Bottle Bill was underway in Oregon, succeeding in changing behavior and lifestyles, becoming a model for similar legislation around the country, and opening the legislative process for further innovative natural resources protection, I was more tuned into my soccer games and skills development, attending the Minnesota Kicks' kids soccer camp one summer, where each good effort was rewarded with: "Well done! And again!" sometimes in an English accent, sometimes

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A large turnout for the Bottle Bills 40th Anniversary party!



Recycling Advocates' Betty Patton assists former Senator Brad Avakian during the fundraising challenge.

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Nigerian, and sometimes a boring North American monotone. It was one thing to have already spent several years learning the game and building skills from committed coaches in my community, another to be among the masters of the sport who were internationally known.

As a new RA board member and a legislature and industry outsider, I felt similarly overwhelmed at the Bottle Bill anniversary party. It is one thing to have experienced the environmental movement from outside the ring, another to spend an evening surrounded by legislative, industry and nonprofit insiders and immersed in the shared history and deep knowledge of so many who made the Bottle Bill happen, and of others who

have led environmental progress since the Bill set the course for so much that was to follow. It was a formidable assemblage, from the honorees, to other past and current legislators recognized, to the attendees and host organization representatives I met at the event. It was reassuring to meet some who were closer to my place on the learning curve; I wasn't alone in my fresh vantage point.

Throughout the evening, as the honorees entertained the crowd with the legendary genesis of the original bill and Brad Avakian engaged the attendees in offering financial support to help sustain the host organizations' work, an energy and enthusiasm took hold. The festive spirit gave way to a certainty that there is more to do; as we stand at one point of the Bottle Bill lifespan, one could witness the drive and commitment that inspire leaders to take on an effort to shape a better future, and put it front and center in their lives.

As I stood in the midst of the festivities and luminaries that night, I also stood at a point in a temporal line, as several generations have benefited from the Bottle Bill and more are poised to benefit from it. If seven generations of benefactors is the mark of a socially good action, the bill is well on its way to meeting that mark. An action unmodified, though, may not satisfy the goal as well as one that never evolves. A bill for one generation may not be the best bill for later generations; as social and cultural dynamics change the context of the original bill, so a dynamic bill will more capably satisfy the needs of current and future generations. The Bottle Bill has undergone one major revision, in 2007; Vicki Berger and Brad Avakian were primary movers of that legislation.

It is time again to update the Bottle Bill, so that it not only benefits the seventh generation from the founders', but seven more. To the Bill's founders, revisers, and stewards—to all those who will make that happen--I say (in a boring—but authentic--North American monotone): Well done! And again!

Recycling Advocates Hosts Screening of “Bag It” Movie

BAG IT OREGON!

The Film ... the Bill ... the Chance!

March 4-10

Hollywood Theater

Starting Friday, March 4th and running at least through Thursday March 10th, an unprecedented coalition of local organizations will stage an historic film and public engagement event featuring the NW premiere of the acclaimed film *BAG IT!*

The film is timely with this year’s Oregon Legislature considering a statewide ban on single use plastic bags and a fee on single use paper bags. Join Recycling Advocates for our hosted night, Tuesday March 8th or any other night of the 7 night showing at the Hollywood Theater to learn more about the Why? Who’s behind it? How will it impact your life? Through this illuminating film and special guests, BAG IT OREGON! will tackle these questions and invite Oregonians to weigh in and decide their own future.

The Grand Premiere is March 4 at 7pm with the bill sponsors, the Junk to Funk Trashion Collective, and VIP guests TBD. It continues nightly, each screening presented in an interactive manner with a different coalition host. Coalition hosts include Environment Oregon, Surfrider Foundation’s Oregon Chapter, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Willamette Riverkeeper, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Recycling Advocates and Audubon Society of Portland.

WHAT: Bag It Oregon! The Movie, The Bill, The Chance

WHEN: 7 pm Friday 3/4 - Thursday 3/10, plus 5 pm on Saturday 3/5 and Sunday 3/6

WHERE: Hollywood Theater, 4122 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland

COST: \$7 (Seniors and Kids 4-12 \$4)

BACKGROUND/DETAILS

BAG IT! the movie www.bagitmovie.com

The story follows Jeb Berrier, an average American guy who is admittedly not a “tree hugger,” who makes a pledge to stop using plastic bags. This simple action gets Jeb thinking about all kinds of plastic as he embarks on a global tour to unravel the complexities of our plastic world. When Jeb’s journey takes a personal twist, we see how our crazy-for-plastic world has finally caught up to us and what we can do about it. Today. Right now.

BAG IT is a film that examines our society’s use and abuse of plastic. The film focuses on plastic as it relates to our society’s throwaway mentality, our culture of convenience, our over consumption of unnecessary, disposable products and packaging—things that we use one time and then, without another thought, throw them away. Where is AWAY?? Away is overflowing landfills, clogged rivers, islands of trash in our oceans, and even our very own toxic bodies. Jeb travels the globe on a fact-finding mission—not realizing that after his simple resolution, plastic will never look the same again!

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THE BILL

Oregonians use an estimated 1.7 billion plastic checkout bags every year. Plastic pollution has become a critical problem in our oceans, with as much as 100 million tons now polluting the North Pacific alone. Plastic never biodegrades; it only photo-degrades into smaller and smaller bits, strangling, suffocating and poisoning sea life, including whales, fish and birds. SB 536 would ban single use plastic checkout bags at all retail outlets in Oregon.

In addition, plastic bags cost municipalities around the state millions of taxpayer dollars in sewer maintenance and recycling facility repair. Plastic bags are also a nuisance in rural communities as they entangle farm equipment and get caught up in fencing. Cities, counties, and countries around the world are implementing bag fees and bans to address this problem.

Oregon grocers and environmental groups are already lining up to support the proposed statewide ban on single-use plastic checkout bags.

The proposed ban would take effect by November 2011 and require at least a nickel charge on recycled paper checkout bags. The charge is designed to let stores recover the cost of the paper bags and encourage shoppers to switch to reusable bags. The bill is supported by the Northwest Grocery Association, retailer Fred Meyer, environmental groups, and others.

The Oregonian reports that if the proposal clears the Legislature this year, Oregon would likely be the first state to adopt a statewide ban.

The proposal would exempt pharmacies, restaurants, and other shops whose main business is preparing food and drink.

>> **By Rhett Lawrence**

bag it
is your life too plastic?

REELTHING FILMS PRESENTS "BAG IT" A FILM BY SUZAN BERAZA
 EDITED BY SUZAN BERAZA & CASEY NAY DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY LEIGH REAGAN FEATURING JEB BERRIER
 WRITTEN BY MICHELLE CURRY WRIGHT EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JUDITH KOHIN PRODUCED BY MICHELLE HILL
 MUSIC BY LARRY GROUPE PRODUCED & DIRECTED BY SUZAN BERAZA

A REELTHING FILM
www.bagitmovie.com

WINNER Monterey Bay International Film Festival
 WINNER Monterey Bay International Film Festival
 WINNER Mountain Film Festival
 WINNER Ashland Independent Film Festival
 WINNER Wild & Scenic Film Festival

LEGISLATIVE CORNER

Bottle Bill Modernization Act

Last week, on the heels of the 40th Anniversary celebration for Oregon's Bottle Bill, HB 3145, sponsored by the bi-partisan team of Representatives Vicki Berger and Ben Cannon, was introduced to modernize the bottle bill.

HB 3145 has four main parts:

1. It expands the types of containers that are covered by the bottle bill to include sports drinks, energy drinks, coffee, tea, juice and similar non-carbonated drinks in 2014.
2. It includes the language from HB 3704 (from the 2010 special session) that defines and codifies "distributor cooperatives" and requires them to report annually to OLCC.
3. It increases the deposit to ten cents in 2015.
4. It redefines the land use designation for redemption centers from heavy industrial to commercial use to make them easier to site in convenient locations.

Recycling Advocates has been advocating tirelessly for bottle bill modernization for years, and we are very encouraged that HB 3145 includes the expansion of the types of covered containers and the increase of the deposit to ten cents. We are disappointed that language is not included that requires some form of "return to retail" by stores covered by redemption centers and we will be advocating for these changes as the bill moves through the legislative process.

The 76th legislative session is still young and a hearing has yet to be scheduled for HB 3145. It has been referred to the House Energy, Environment and Water committee. We will keep you informed as it progresses through the process, but we encourage you to email or call your legislators to voice your support.



Katy Daily

MEMBER OF EARTHSHARE OREGON

Protect the Earth - through public speaking

So many issues, so little time. It is not always easy to find the best way to have our message heard and we're grateful that you have answered the call. For a number of years, Recycling Advocates has been able to reach a broader audience through our membership in EarthShare Oregon. And we could use your help this year.

EarthShare Oregon is a nonprofit organization that collaborates with businesses and public agencies to enable their employees to support 71 environmental groups through workplace giving campaigns. Last year, more than 4,000 Oregonians supported EarthShare through giving campaigns in 100+ workplaces.

In order to get the word out to their employees about the giving options available, many workplaces invite EarthShare members to give brief presentations about their projects. If you have a passion for Recycling Advocates' work, a small amount of time to volunteer to make a 5-10 minute presentation, and a willingness to overcome stage fright about public speaking, let us know! We'd love to have you represent us as only you can do it as a generous and committed supporter.

If you'd like to learn more about EarthShare and about their business partners in your area, you can visit the EarthShare website at www.earthshare-oregon.org. To join the team of speakers for the 2011 EarthShare Campaign, please contact EarthShare at 503-223-9015 or meghan@earthshare-oregon.org. For more information, please visit www.earthshare-oregon.org.



FROM THE BOARD

What can you do to help RA? Participate in Lobby Day

Many of us have asked for ideas and guidance towards actions that we can pursue to help some environmental issues advance in our state. Recycling Advocates is integrally involved in two bills in the Oregon legislature that have a significant impact on Oregon's environmental future: expansion of our bottle bill and banning the free single use checkout bag at stores in Oregon. Our legislators will be debating these issues over the next few months.

We have the opportunity as constituents of these public servants to talk with them directly about our interest in these issues. Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) has put together an instruction day for citizen lobbyists and the opportunity to meet with our legislators directly. I encourage you to join me on Thursday, April 7, in Salem from 9 am – 4 pm for OCN's Lobby Day. We will meet at the Mission Mill Museum at the Dye House at Willamette University, 1313 Mill Street SE. Attendees need to RSVP.

OCN will have presentations on important environmental bills that are being considered, followed by lessons and tips on making your points with your representatives. Then we will put that newly gained information to use as we meet with our House and Senate members to encourage their support.

As mentioned earlier, we need to RSVP for this event. Do so by going to the News & Events page of www.OLCV.org or by calling Meredith Shield at 503-224-4011. And let me know if you will be there. You can email me at BPatton@RecyclingAdvocates.org.

Betty Patton



ADVOCACY CALENDAR

AOR Winter Forum, Oregon City March 6

AOR's Winter Forum, "Film Plastics - Looking at Solutions," will look at programs working to get film plastics off the curb, results of DEQ's commingled study, and more. Details at [Www.aORr.org](http://www.aORr.org)

Bag It Movie—Sponsored by Recycling Advocates March 4-10

Recycling Advocates and a coalition of local organizations will stage an historic film and public engagement event featuring the NW premiere of the acclaimed film BAG IT! *See details on page 4.*

Recycling Advocates Board Meeting March 7, 7-9 pm (Tuesday March 8th is Recycling Advocates' Day)

Call 503-777-0909 for details..



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Please enclose a check and mail to: PO Box 6736, Portland OR 97228-6736 or visit www.RecyclingAdvocates.org/join.htm and pay by credit card or PayPal.

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Your membership contribution to RA is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law

