

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
1021 O St, Suite 3230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 955(Blakespear) Dealer Cooperatives

Dear Chair Blakespear,

The Glass Packaging Institute (GPI) supports SB 955 (Blakespear) which makes necessary technical changes to ensure the continued success and growth of the Dealer Cooperative model created by the expansion of the bottle program in SB 1013 (Atkins) in 2022.

Under current law, a dealer cooperative can only be formed in unserved convenience zones. The law further allows a single reverse vending machine, with limited collection capacity, to be considered adequate for serving an entire zone. This flaw prevents the formation of a dealer coop that is capable of serving a much broader consumer base and supermarkets in that zone.

Specifically, SB 955 clarifies that a single reverse vending machine does not deem that convenience zone as served.

SB 955 will encourage the growth of dealer coops and increase opportunities for consumers to redeem their empty beverage containers.

On behalf of GPI, I respectfully request your AYE vote on SB 955.

Sincerely,



Scott DeFife, President

cc: Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Scott Seekatz, Senate Republican Caucus
Edelstein, Gilbert, Robson & Smith