



Wild at heart.

District of Elkford

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March 15, 2022

Honourable George Heyman
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
P.O. Box 9047 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Heyman:

Re: Milk Container Recycling in British Columbia

This letter is regarding the recently implemented 10-cent deposit on milk and plant-based beverages which came into effect on February 1, 2022 as part of the CleanBC Plastic Action Plan.

The District of Elkford understands the need for this deposit and the action plan to prevent plastic waste, keep more waste out of the landfills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to create a cleaner, better future. Additionally, the District has long been an advocate for initiatives to accomplish the same goals.

Unfortunately, the nearest location for Elkford residents to recycle milk containers is a 65 km drive to the City of Fernie, resulting in a 130 km round trip for a resident of the District of Elkford to the nearest return-in centre to receive their refund on these containers. Commuting this distance for the refund is not only an inadequate solution but is counterintuitive to our collective efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

While we recognize that residents of Elkford still have the option of placing these containers through the existing RecycleBC Depot at our local transfer station, we do not feel that it is equitable for the residents of Elkford to have this as the only reasonable option after paying the deposit at the time of purchase.

We would like the Province to reconsider this deposit-refund system to ensure that it is equitable to all residents of British Columbia while still encouraging the reduction of waste in landfills and ensuring viable solutions to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sincerely,

Dean McKerracher
Mayor

Cc: MLA Tom Shypitka, Kootenay East
All UBCM Member Local Governments

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