

# Letter from the Director

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Time is not on our side. The environmental implications of our waste-based manufacturing and overconsumption, and the public health risks posed by the plastics crisis, demand decisive and urgent action now.

Transforming our current economy — which operates in linear take-make-and-dispose terms — into a circular economy, where resources remain resources, will require capital investments, technological innovations and regulatory shifts. At the same time, we can't ignore proven solutions like deposit return systems, which cost taxpayers nothing, enjoy broad public support, and stimulate local, job-intensive economic development.

I am grateful for the many diverse stakeholders — from individuals throughout the supply chain to advocates, agency experts, and government leaders — who inspired and contributed to this work, as well as those who will disseminate these findings locally in support of meaningful, immediate change. Thank you for helping us get closer to realizing a circular economy.

We have an obligation to sustainably manage our resources so that current and future generations can enjoy just and healthy communities. As the data in this report irrefutably show, bottle bills are one solution that can help us make that change. Thank you for being part of the solution.