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RE: HB 3240

VOTE NO ON HB 3240

This last summer I was behind a woman in line at the supermarket who was buying a cart loaded with cases of bottled water. She was using a food stamp card. As I finished paying for my groceries I went outside to wait in the car for my daughter. As I looked out the window, this woman was off to the side of the store and was dumping out all of the bottled water, one by one. When my daughter came out, I exclaimed "why is she doing something crazy and wasteful like that!?" My daughter responded, "Oh, they do that so they can turn the empties into the bottle drop for cash so they can go buy cigarettes or alcohol." I was stunned.

Most of us in Oregon care. No one should go hungry. I make small, regular donations to the Union Gospel Mission and to the Salvation Army. We have the food bank and there are numerous charitable organizations that provide meals to the homeless. This woman wasn't going to go hungry, she simply wanted the cash. This is just one way fraud occurs.

You, as our representatives can help protect against food stamp fraud and theft. Your citizens need you to help ensure that our tax dollars are being protected and utilized for their intended purpose. Putting the recipient's name on the food stamp card seems to be a cost-effective way to help protect against fraud. It not only helps protect tax payers against fraud, it helps protect the person to whom the card was provided, to put their name on their food stamp debit cards and to have stores ensure the person using the card is the one identified.

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