

Submitter: D Torres

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3940

Chair & Committee Members,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 3940. I don't know where to begin. On the surface, it's a tax on beverage containers (5-cents) on sales of beer, wine, soda, juice, cider and just plain water. BUT there are OTHER TAXES in the bill as well such as:

--Increasing the forest harvest tax upon taxpayers (62.5) 100 cents per thousand feet, board measure, adjusts with the Consumer Price Index annually (taxation without representation).

--Minimum assessments of forestland fire protection or suppression is raised from \$18.75 to \$58 adjusted upward only by the Consumer Price Index annually (taxation without representation).

--Annual cost of protection by State Forester set at 30-cents per acre grazing land adjusts upward only with the Consumer Price Index. (taxation without representation)

I find it incredible that this bill is even up for a public hearing with so much stuffed into it. Combining so many taxes in one bill is a disservice to what is acceptable and what is not. Where are the bills to stop the mismanagement of the forests that would reduce the wildfires in the first place? This is burning up money and is not a fix to the underlying problem.

Making taxes adjust with the Consumer Price Index or any other index is an increase in taxes without representation, particularly when it doesn't allow for a downward adjustment as in this bill.

VOTE NO ON THIS BILL!