

Submitter: Sarah Farey
On Behalf Of: Block 15 Brewing Company
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3940

A Hidden Sales Tax on Consumers – Oregonians already pay a 10-cent deposit per bottle under our successful, privately run Bottle Bill. Raising it by another 5 cents is just a sales tax on beverages that unfairly impacts working families and local breweries.

Threatens a Successful Recycling System – The Bottle Bill works because it runs without government interference. Adding a tax will burden brewers, distributors, retailers, and consumers, weakening a system that has thrived for decades.

No Connection to Wildfire Funding – A strong recycling program has nothing to do with wildfire prevention. This tax feels out of place compared to other funding sources.

Better Funding Options Exist – Instead of new taxes, Oregon should consider:

- Redirecting existing insurance tax revenue
- Using lottery funds, as suggested by Sen. Fred Girod
- Improving forest management instead of just spending more taxpayer money

A Poor Funding Choice – Property tax, income tax, and other sources make sense for wildfire prevention. But this Bottle Bill tax is completely unrelated.

This is government overreach—raising taxes on everyday items without addressing wildfire risks. I urge you to remove the bottle and can tax and find a more responsible way to fund wildfire prevention.