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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3940

30 March 2025

House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

House Bill 3940

Dear Chair Chair Representative Lively, Vice-Chairs Representatives Gamba and Levy and members of the Committee:

Amongst other proposals to increase the state's spending the sponsors and supporters of HB 3940 want to place a surcharge on sales of beverage containers for purposes of wildfire prevention and response. Now the usual thinking about a bottle deposit is that the purchaser gets the deposit fee back when they return the container. Will this be the case or will the money from the surcharge simply disappear into the state's coffers?

A few years ago our politicians decided it was too much effort to ask of voters to place a postage stamp on mail-in ballot envelope. I recall one reason given was the additional and onerous burden it places on voters to purchase a stamp, apply it to an envelope and drop it off at a post office.

But apparently storing an empty bottle and transporting it to a redemption center is a piece of cake and requires no effort at all.

How long has the state been managing our state forests? And now we are at the point where we've decided a surcharge on bottles of beer and soda pop is the answer!

No. No more taxes or increase in taxes or increases in surcharges. Oregon politicians need to stop treating its citizens as a cash cow. We need to keep more of the money we earn and spend it as we choose, not how politicians choose.

Thank you,
Richard Wisner