

Submitter: Madeleine McCarthy
On Behalf Of: Von Ebert Brewing
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3940

I am writing to you as a deeply concerned constituent, as a small craft beer brewer here in Portland, to express my strong opposition to Oregon House Bill 3940. My husband and I have built our livelihood on the vibrant craft beer industry, an industry that, like many others, will be negatively impacted by the proposed beverage container surcharge. I also possess a degree in Natural Resources and Wildlife Management, and understand the need for a sustainable solution to Oregon's wildfire problem. I believe that this legislation imposes an unfair and undue financial burden on Oregonians, and that its proposed funding mechanisms are deeply flawed, and non-sustainable.

The core of my opposition stems from the following concerns:

The regressive nature of the beverage container surcharge and its impact on craft brewers:

- Adding a 5-cent surcharge to beverage containers will disproportionately affect low-income families, and small businesses like ours, placing an added financial strain on those who can least afford it.
- This approach unfairly targets consumers and small businesses, rather than holding responsible parties accountable for wildfire prevention.

The inappropriate use of the Bottle Bill:

- Diverting funds from the existing Bottle Bill program undermines its intended purpose of promoting recycling and environmental sustainability.
- Mixing wildfire funding with the Bottle Bill creates an illogical and inefficient financial structure.

The cumulative financial burden:

- Combined with other proposed tax increases within HB 3940, the added surcharge creates an excessive financial burden on Oregon residents and small businesses.
- The use of the rainy day fund, and other funding sources, are also of great concern, as these funds are for other uses.

Lack of focus on preventative forest management:

- While wildfire funding is necessary, HB 3940 places an excessive amount of focus on funds raising, and not enough focus on the core problem of poor forest management. As someone with a background in Natural Resources and Wildlife Management, I understand that proactive forest management is key to preventing

large-scale wildfires.

- This proposed hike is not a sustainable solution to the wildfire problem that Oregon is currently facing.

I believe that Oregon needs responsible and effective wildfire funding, but HB 3940 is not the answer. I urge you, to:

- Actively oppose HB 3940 in its current form.
- Advocate for alternative funding solutions that do not disproportionately burden Oregon consumers and small businesses.
- Prioritize investments in proactive forest management and wildfire prevention strategies, that create a sustainable solution.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,
Madeleine McCarthy
Lead Brewer Von Ebert Brewing
Portland, OR