

Submitter: Adam Sivits

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3940

Hello,

My name is Adam Sivits, and I work for a small brewery in the Portland metro area. I strongly oppose HB3940.

1) This is basically a sales tax on consumers. Us Oregonians already pay 10-cents per bottle and can under the Bottle Bill. Adding 5 more cents is nothing more than a retail sales tax on a wide array of beverages, which harms hundreds, if not thousands, of small, family-run companies like ours.

2) The Bottle Bill works, and operates independently of the government. Taxing this system will only hurt brewers, distributors, retailers, and consumers.

3) How is taxing beverage containers related to wildfires? A waste-free, clean environment - which is what the bottle return system aims to achieve - has zero correlation to funding statewide wildfire needs.

4) Instead of imposing a new tax, Oregon could look into redirecting the insurance tax, which is already collected; use lottery funds, which was already proposed by Senator Fred Girod; or simply prioritize better forest management, rather than taxing Oregonians for no good reason.

Even though the brewery I work for isn't a package brewery (i.e. we don't bottle or can our beers), we still sell many crowlers (32 oz. cans of draft beer packaged in the taproom). Not only would this bill adversely affect our small, family- and veteran-owned brewery, it would negatively affect this entire industry, which is at a crossroads currently since COVID.

Please don't heap another burden on top of the beverage industry's shoulders. We're paying our fair share.