



PO BOX 1264
Tualatin, OR 97062
503-233-3056

www.oregonrecyclers.org

April 1, 2025

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 3940 – Oppose as written, Support the -2 amendments

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy and Members of the Committee,

The Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) is a 501(c)6 committed to supporting policies that promote high-quality recycling and composting, thoughtful consumption, and producer responsibility. AOR's diverse membership includes more than 200 businesses, governments, nonprofits and individuals working together on the common goal of achieving a system of sustainable materials management in Oregon. We believe the producers that manufacture and sell products to Oregonians should have a role in how products are managed at the end of their usable life. Equity and community partnerships are also centered in our guiding principles because we believe the reuse, repair and recycling economy should benefit everyone, including communities of color and rural areas. These principles and our drive to serve our communities are why AOR opposes HB 3940.

AOR is a longtime supporter and booster of Oregon's extremely successful Bottle Bill. As currently written, HB 3940 would add a fee/tax to beverage containers, on top of the deposit, for wildfire prevention/response. While wildfire prevention and response are an important issue, AOR is very concerned about the negative impacts a policy like this could have on our iconic Bottle Bill system and the confusion it could cause consumers. As evidenced by an over 90 percent redemption rate, Oregonians love their Bottle Bill and when they pay a deposit they expect to get it back when returning their containers. This bill would cause confusion and distrust when consumers redeem containers for their deposits and don't get all of what they paid when purchased. There is also no relation between wildfires and Oregon's Bottle Bill, making the policy justification tenuous.

AOR strongly urges you to oppose HB 3940 as written or to adopt the -2 amendments and remove the added fee/tax on beverage containers from this legislation.

Sincerely,

Joel Schoening
Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers

2024-2025 AOR BOARD

Chair: Joel Schoening, Resource Recycling Systems | **Secretary:** Elizabeth Cole, City of Beaverton | **Treasurer:** Laura Leebrick, Rogue Disposal | **Conference Co-Chairs:** Danielle Womble, Waste Connections | Lexi Howell, North Lincoln Sanitary | **Legislative Chair:** Thomas Egleston, Metro | **Members-at-Large:** Maya Buelow, Lane County | Jeff Murray, EFI Recycling | Holly Stirnkorb, Metro | Eric Ahnmark, Recology