



April 1, 2025

I am writing on behalf of Ground Score Association to express our disagreement with the can/bottle tax proposed under HB 3940. Wildfire funding is essential to the protection of our state and its residents, but it would be more appropriately funded by a tax on goods and services that exacerbate rather than alleviate climate change and other sources of wildfire.

Furthermore, as a waste picker organization representing informal can and bottle collectors, and operating a recycling depot in implementation of Oregon's Bottle Bill, Ground Score feels that income earned through our bottle bill should remain within the recycling and reuse / materials management sector. Our People's Depot only has funding to operate 2 hours a day, Monday through Friday, despite our incredible and growing success in collecting beverage containers and providing pathways to formal, benefitted work for canners (informal can and bottle collectors). In 2024, The People's Depot took in almost 9.5 million beverage containers, preventing the emission of 2,530 tons of eCO₂. To tax cans and bottles and divert that money to another sector altogether would be a slap in the face for organizations like ours that can barely sustain on the limited funding we receive.

A tax on beverage containers would also exert undue financial burden on low and no income residents, especially those who live outside, who are disproportionately reliant on packaged food and drinks. This tax would also in many cases be covered by food stamps, which would result in yet an additional tax on taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration,

Taylor Cass Talbott
Co-Director, Ground Score Association