

Submitter: Donna Maebori

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3940

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Levy and Gamba and Committee Members:

My name is Donna Maebori. I live in Beaverton. I am a climate activist and a member of an Episcopal Parish that works closely with charitable nonprofits. I hold three thoughts on this bill that add up to a neutral position.

First, I applaud and support HB 3940 for prioritizing financial development for wildfire prevention and response, as these fires have become devastating.

Secondly, I am neutral on five of the six proposed means of revenue, such as transferring 0.5% of General Fund appropriations per biennium to wildfires.

Lastly, I oppose one proposal, the 5-cent surcharge on bottle sales. This would add to rising grocery prices during this stressful time. The Bottle Drop has become an important source of revenue for many people and nearly 7,000 non-profit charities.

According to Willamette Week, a coalition of several business and environmental groups, such as Northwest Grocery Retailers Association and the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, in a letter to lawmakers last week, stated this proposal is “a beverage tax no matter how you do it.” They urge that this surcharge be eliminated from this bill. I ask the same.

Thank you.