

Submitter: Liz Philpott

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3940

I appreciate the opportunity to share my testimony with you regarding HB 3940.

My name is Liz Philpott, and I manage the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative's BottleDrop Give program. In case you are not familiar with this program, we support thousands of nonprofits across the state, who work with their networks to raise funds through beverage container redemptions. Thanks to the generosity of Oregonians who participate in Oregon's Bottle Bill, these nonprofits raise more than \$5 million, ten cents at a time, each year. It's a win for nonprofits and a win for the environment.

Adding a beverage sales tax in Oregon's Bottle Bill would not only impact the most vulnerable Oregonians in terms of their grocery bills, but also in their ability to give to causes they care about, which will harm nonprofits that participate in this fundraising program. There are a wide range of causes supported by nonprofits through our program that support Oregonians in all stages and walks of life. Some examples of groups fundraising with BottleDrop include food banks, PTOs, churches, veteran support services, sporting and recreation activities, girl scouts and boy scouts, libraries, parks, animal rescues and environmental conservation organizations.

One of the key components of success to this program is that it enables people to support their favorite nonprofits in an approachable way. As one of our participants so eloquently said, "it's grassroots giving in its purest form – and a beverage tax could discourage that spirit of generosity."

Our nonprofit participants regularly tell us that many of their supporters can't contribute much, but they can donate their bottles and cans. Supporters take great pride in being able to give back. This not only provides funding to support their work, but it also gives nonprofits an additional way to connect with their communities.

A beverage sales tax in the Bottle Bill would not only impact the nonprofits participating in our program, but it would also impact the many beneficiaries of the services and programs provided and enhanced through funds raised.

I urge you to consider the unintended consequences that this could have on Oregonians and the nonprofits providing life-changing services while enhancing the quality of life for residents across the state.

Please vote no on HB 3940 or adopt the Dash 2 amendment to remove the sections

of the bill related to Oregon's Bottle Bill.

Sincerely,

Liz Philpott