

Submitter: Steve Gibbs  
On Behalf Of: Columbia Distributing  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3940

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Steve Gibbs, and I serve as vice president of government affairs at Columbia Distributing, a leading total beverage distributor. We employ more than 1400 people in Oregon and deliver beverages to retail customers in each of your districts and throughout Oregon.

Columbia Distributing strongly urges this committee to vote NO on HB 3940, which imposes a new beverage sales tax that will raise costs for Oregonians and undermine the integrity of Oregon's Bottle Bill. This proposal is not the right way to fund wildfire defense.

Oregon families are already facing high grocery costs. A new beverage sales tax will make essential drink items even more expensive—hurting household budgets at a time when many families are struggling.

Oregon's Bottle Bill works because it ensures consumers get their full refund when they return bottles and cans. HB 3940 would cut into that, breaking the trust Oregonians have in the system and the effectiveness of the system.

We recognize the importance of wildfire defense, but a beverage sales tax is not the right solution. If the committee chooses to move HB 3940 forward, we urge you to adopt the -2 amendment to remove the 5-cent tax on beverage containers.

Reject this harmful and unnecessary beverage tax and vote NO on HB 3940. Thank you