

Submitter: Christopher Nemlowill

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3940

Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment,  
I write to urge you to oppose HB 3940, which would add a nonrefundable 5 cent surcharge on all beverage cans & bottles sold in Oregon in order to fund wildfire prevention and response.

This surcharge makes no sense. Why are beverage producers to be punished with an increase in cost to their consumers in order to fund wildfire response? Why is the beverage industry the only one tasked with funding this disparate activity?

The fermentation industry in Oregon is already having a hard enough time with large cost increases, supply chain issues, and alcohol consumption being down, to name a few challenges; to add this to an already ailing industry, and for no appropriate reason, could be potentially devastating to small local businesses whose sustenance is tied to the selling of beverages in cans and bottles.

Communities largely rely on small brewpubs, wineries, and cideries as hubs in their communities, as well as for increasing tourism dollars. Astoria is an excellent example of this; our fermentation industry has largely driven the huge boom we've been seeing in the last decades. Please don't hurt these small businesses by increasing costs to their consumers. While funding wildfire prevention and response is important, of course, putting the burden on one unrelated industry is not at all fair. Please oppose HB 3940.

Thank you,

Chris Nemlowill

Owner & President, Fort George Brewery