

Submitter:

Bradley DePuyt

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3940

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 3940. Oregon has long been a leader in the beverage deposit system and has carried out its mission at high rates of recycling, specifically since the increase to 10 cents per container. We have the highest deposit in the country and the highest redemption rate as well, at 87%. The system is working as intended, and the deposit charged is directly correlated with addressing the potential wastestream and recycling initiatives. To impose an additional increase on the deposit in order to fund an unrelated issue would be a mistake and, honestly, an inappropriate use of those funds. Wildfire funding is important, but in no way connected to beverage container deposits. This is a hidden tax, an undue burden on citizens, and will only continue to create mistrust and tension between good government and already strained taxpayers. There are many other mechanisms that can be used to address this budget shortfall already in existence. Redirecting the insurance tax (which is already collected), using lottery funds, as proposed by Sen. Fred Girod, and prioritizing better forest management are better solutions than simply throwing more taxpayer dollars at the problem. I hope you consider this feedback and see the bigger picture that tacking on more taxes to consumer goods for unrelated issues will only erode trust and further the divide that has already formed in Oregon.