

Submitter:

Matthew Van Wyk

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3940

Dear House Committee on Revenue,

I am writing today in Opposition of House Bill 3940. As the founder and employee of an small, Oregon craft Brewery, I am writing to let you know that House Bill 3940 will hurt my business and my industry, one that is already experiencing headwinds from increased cost of goods, increased tarriffs, rising employee costs, and inflation.

Adding a 5 cent increase on beverage containers is just one more cost to incur. And frankly, that 5 cents will be passed on to the consumer, who are already paying 10 cents per beverage container on a program that already works in Oregon. This is simply a hidden sales tax for the consumer.

Secondly, the Bottle Bill has been a national success precisely because it operates without government interference. Taxing the system will burden local brewers, distributors, retailers, and consumers, undermining a program that has worked for decades.

In addition to this added cost for the beverage, this is a misaligned funding mechanism for wildfire prevention. There is no connection and there are better ways of funding wildfire relief in Oregon. Property tax, income tax, the kicker, ending fund balance, and retaliatory tax can all be justified as mechanisms for funding wildfire prevention. But this Bottle Bill tax sticks out like a sore thumb, lacking any logical connection to the issue at hand.

My business, Alesong Brewing and Blending in Eugene Oregon is a small family owned business. Margins are slim and every increase in the cost of doing business makes it that much harder to stay in business. And any motivation for people to spend less on the beverages we make will further damage the revenue of the business.

For all these reasons, I strongly oppose HB 3940. It is detrimental to my small locally owned business.

Thank you.

Matt Van Wyk,

Founder

Alesong Brewing and Blending