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HB 3940. Please

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To: "rep.pammarsh@oregonlegislature.gov" <rep.pammarsh@oregonlegislature.gov>

Bcc: Hillary Barbour <hbarbour@obrc.com>, Kristina Lefever <kristina@pollinatorprojectroguevalley.org>

Dear Representative Marsh:

Everyone in Oregon and beyond is concerned about wildfire and how to fund preparedness and recovery. But raiding the bottle bill funds is not the right way to do it.

Please oppose HB 3940 to protect the Bottle Bill in its current form!
Or at the very least, can you arrange to re-write the bill to separate recycling from fire prevention and recovery?

Not only is the Bottle Bill unrelated to wildfires, but changing it would break a renowned system that has worked successfully in Oregon for more than 50 years. Diverting funds to other purposes will confuse the millions of Oregonians who have responded so positively to reducing litter and providing funds for environmental education and so many other benefits.

The existing bottle provides a great incentive for Oregonians to recycle more than 2 billion beverage containers every year, and the current law promises that funds generated from these community efforts will provide essential support to people and nonprofit organizations who are joining together to keep litter out of our rivers, beaches, parks, and forests. The proceeds from these recycling efforts goes right back into the community to support nonprofits providing essential services to their communities.

My wife and I live in Ashland and recycle all our bottles either directly at local collection points, or through several non-profits, such as The Crest at Willow-Witt Ranch. We would feel betrayed, if this important program is raided for other purposes, no matter how important these other priorities might be.

HB 3940 is a misguided effort to fund wildfire defense - not only is the Bottle Bill unrelated to wildfires but changing it would break a renowned system that has served Oregon successfully for more than 50 years.

Although wildfire defense is an important issue that needs to be addressed and properly funded, changing the Oregon Bottle Bill is not the way to go about it. Please oppose HB 3940 in its current form and protect the Bottle Bill and ensure its continued success for and benefit to Oregonians far into the future.

Thank you for all of your work to make Oregon -- let's work together to keep Oregon beautiful and find other ways to deal with wildfire!

--

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Executive Director

The CREST

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CREST:

C reate Community in Conservation

R eciprocity, Respect, and Resilience

E quity through Education

S tewardship, Restoration, and Regeneration T rust.

Willow-Witt Ranch is located within the ancestral homelands of the Shasta, Takelma, Athabaskan, and Latgawa peoples who lived here since time immemorial. These Tribes were displaced during rapid Euro-American colonization, the Gold Rush, and armed conflict between 1851 and 1856. In the 1850s, the discovery of gold and settlement brought thousands of Euro-Americans to their lands, leading to warfare, epidemics, starvation, and villages being burned. In 1853 the first of several treaties were signed, confederating these Tribes and others together - who would then be referred to as the Rogue River Tribe. These treaties ceded most of their homelands to the United States, and in return they were guaranteed a permanent homeland reserved for them. At the end of the Rogue River Wars in 1856, these Tribes and many other Tribes from western Oregon were removed to the Siletz Reservation and the Grand Ronde Reservation. Today, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon (<https://www.grandronde.org>) and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (<http://www.ctsi.nsn.us/>) are living descendants of the Takelma, Shasta, and Latgawa peoples of this area. We encourage YOU to learn about the land you reside on, and to join us in advocating for the inherent sovereignty of Indigenous people. We also acknowledge that Euro-American colonists excluded, marginalized, enslaved, tortured, and murdered many other descendants of slaves, darker-skinned people, Chinese and other Asian and Pacific Island immigrants, Mexican workers, and others. We cannot change these tragic events of the past, but we acknowledge them and invite you to join us in doing what we can to bring justice and equity to all, as we move together into a more resilient, inclusive, and just future.