

Submitter:

Kylie Steele

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3940

I am writing to oppose including the Bottle Bill in HB 3940 A for the following reasons.

1. Threatens a Proven, Private Recycling System – Oregon's Bottle Bill has been a national success precisely because it operates without government interference. Taxing the system will burden local nonprofits and consumers, undermining a program that has worked for decades.
2. It's a Hidden Sales Tax on Consumers – Oregonians already pay a 10-cent deposit per bottle under our successful, privately run Bottle Bill. Adding a new tax or using the present deposit value disproportionately harms working families and nonprofits fundraising through BottleDrop Give.
3. There is No Correlation Between Recycling and Wildfire Funding – A waste-free, clean environment through a viable and gold-standard bottle return system has zero connection to statewide wildfire funding needs. The proposed tax feels misplaced and unrelated when compared to existing funding sources.
4. Better Funding Alternatives Exist – Instead of imposing new taxes, Oregon could look at existing revenues.
5. A Misaligned Funding Mechanism – Broad based taxes 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.

#### BottleDrop Give Talking Points

1. Nearly 7,000 nonprofits across Oregon raise more than \$5 million each year by collecting and recycling more than 50 million bottles and cans with BottleDrop Give. Oregon nonprofits are facing major challenges. Between inflation, a pandemic, and losing critical funding sources, every dime counts. Fundraising with BottleDrop helps nonprofits further connect with their communities.
2. BottleDrop Give supporters take great pride in being able to give back to their favorite nonprofits by donating their bottles and cans.
3. Losing funds raised through BottleDrop would severely reduce many nonprofits' abilities to offer vital programs and services to Oregonians and their communities.