

Submitter: Sarah Newton
On Behalf Of: Fox Farm at Free Orchards Elementary School
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3940

My name is Sarah Newton, I am the garden coordinator at Fox Farm - the school garden at Free Orchards Elementary School. Our volunteer-run curriculum is funded by our wonderful BottleDrop Give account and the generosity of our community. Without the sustaining support of the Oregon Bottle Drop program, our garden would suffer financially.

As we teach our students not only how to grow food, we also discuss how to grow the care of the environment in their own community. Seeing the works that the ORBC supports with its' funding is inspirational to our students. To use funds that have been supporting the environment used for wildfires instead of the important work they've already been doing - is disappointing. We need to continue to use those funds to improve our communities through non-profits and not add a tax burden where it isn't necessary.

In our garden classes we often talk about cause and effect - and I think that's an important point to discuss for this bottle bill as well. Recycling doesn't effect wildfires, but taking resources from non-profits that support environmental protection will.

Thank you for your time.
Sarah Newton