

Submitter:	Ryan Schmiede
On Behalf Of:	Cascade Lakes Brewing Company
Committee:	House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3940

Please oppose this bill. It primarily threatens a proven, private recycling system which operates successfully because there is no government interference. Taxing this system will burden local brewers who are already operating in a heavily taxed industry. It will also further burden distributors, retailers and consumers. Speaking of consumers, this bill amounts to a hidden sales tax on them. Oregonians already pay a 10-cent per bottle deposit under the successful, privately run Bottle Bill. Adding another 5-cents is just a retail sales tax on everyday beverages, which disproportionately harms working families and Oregon breweries like ours. 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 is misplaced and incongruent when compared to existing funding sources such as property tax, income tax, the kicker, ending fund balance and retaliatory tax which can all be justified as mechanisms for funding wildfire prevention. Oregon brewers already face massive challenges; inflation, supply chain issues, employee shortages and fewer people enjoying our hand crafted beverages. Cascade Lakes Brewing Company is locally family owned and Oregon's only Not-For-Profit brewery. We give back to environmental causes, veterans organizations, animal shelters and more. The more burden placed on a small company like ours the less good we can do. Let us continue to do good. OPPOSE HB3940. Thank you.