

Submitter: Cheryl Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3940

Please don't place a surcharge on beverage containers for wildfire prevention & response. Bottle/can recycling doesn't seem to have much to do with wildfires, which pretty much makes this a sales tax on beverages.

Bottle and can recycling in Oregon has been such a success because of our Bottle Bill and the private companies (grocers, retailers and recycling companies like BottleDrop) that have agreed to accept and count the cans and bottles for return. Our church returns beverage containers to BottleDrop as a fund raiser to help the poor and homeless in our community. A surcharge will reduce our ability to help them. Low income and homeless people in our community also return bottles and cans to help put food on the table. This "surcharge" will further reduce their ability to survive.

Consumers and businesses already pay 10 cents per container, but they can currently get it back by recycling. Adding another "surcharge" (a.k.a. tax) on beverage containers or reducing the refund at return will reduce the incentive to recycle.

Our state paid out a very large amount in unnecessary Kickers from over collecting \$5.6 BILLION in taxes and "surcharges" in 2021-23... why wasn't some of that allocated to fund things like wildfire prevention & response? Or here's an idea... instead of paying people who don't want to work to not work, use the funds to give them jobs in our forests thinning and hand piling slash or dozing fire breaks on grasslands. That would reduce the fuels in our forests and grasslands and give them back a sense of accomplishment, improve their physical and mental health and restore their dignity.

This is Oregon - we aren't supposed to have a sales tax, but it seems like politicians keep trying to sneak them in. Please stop!