

Testimony in Opposition to HB 3940A

For more than 50 years, the Bottle Bill has been a model of environmental success, helping to keep bottles and cans out of our roadsides and natural areas while also supporting families and nonprofits across the state. Today, Oregonians recycle more than 2 billion bottles and cans annually, and more than \$200 million in refunds is returned to consumers every year. The Bottle Bill has created a proven, private recycling system that operates without taxpayer funding while delivering nation-leading results.

Changing the way the Bottle Bill works to help fund wildfire defense is not the right approach. Finding sustainable funding for wildfire management is undeniably important, but there is absolutely no correlation between our Bottle Bill and the causes of wildfire. It doesn't make sense to jeopardize one all-Oregonian environmental solution to solve an unrelated environmental challenge. Taking resources from our Bottle Bill or changing how it operates would break a system Oregonians trust and depend on and threaten a program that benefits every corner of the state.

I urge you to protect the Bottle Bill and all of its far-reaching benefits. Please oppose HB 3940A if it includes any changes to this essential and successful program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Hays", is written over the "Thank you" line.