

Submitter:

Karen Gremer

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3940

The Bottle Bill has been a model of environmental success, helping to keep bottles and cans out of our roads and natural areas. If not for the Bottle Bill, the roads and natural areas would be littered with bottles and cans. Oregonians presently 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 is 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 correct approach. While finding sustainable funding for wildfire management is very important, there is absolutely no correlation between the 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 away the resources from the Bottle Bill or changing how it operates would break a system Oregonians trust and depend on.

I feel making Oregonians aware of how they can prevent wildfires would be a more practical solution. Having fire districts inform the public how wildfires can be prevented would be more valuable. Having set-backs of brush clearing, having local discussions given by fire districts to the public makes more sense.

Please 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.

Karen Gremer