

April 30, 2025

Protect Oregon's Bottle Bill

Oregon's Bottle Bill is one of our state's most celebrated environmental success stories. For more than 50 years, Oregonians have led the nation in recycling beverage containers – keeping more than 2 billion bottles and cans each year out of our rivers, forests and communities, while supporting families and nonprofits across the state.

One of the greatest strengths of the Bottle Bill is that it works without taxpayer funding. The beverage sector covers the costs of the system, and Oregonians benefit through refunds, recycling programs and environmental protection. It's a proven model that delivers real results, and all Oregonians, regardless of politics or background, take pride in it.

Now, despite this overwhelming success, lawmakers are considering major changes to the Bottle Bill as part of a proposal to fund wildfire defense. Finding sustainable funding for wildfire management is undeniably important; every Oregonian has a stake in preventing and fighting wildfires. But this is not the right approach. It doesn't make sense to jeopardize one all Oregonian environmental solution to solve an unrelated environmental challenge.

Here in Oregon, it's second nature to return our containers and collect our refunds. Taking resources from our Bottle Bill would break the system Oregonians trust and depend on and would threaten a program that benefits every corner of the state.

HB 3940A puts the strength of the Bottle Bill at risk. Redirecting funds or changing how the Bottle Bill operates would undermine a trusted, effective system that Oregonians rely on daily. It would mean confusion at the checkout counter, weaker recycling rates, more litter in our parks and public spaces, and fewer financial resources for families and nonprofits.

The Bottle Bill is about more than just recycling – it's an economic lifeline for thousands of Oregonians. Each year, more than \$200 million is returned to consumers, helping many people make ends meet. The BottleDrop Give program also helps over 6,900 nonprofits raise essential funds, and more than 1.1 million Oregonians use the Green Bag program to save for college, cover daily expenses and support causes they care about.

We urge you to join us in protecting the Bottle Bill. **Please oppose HB 3940A if it includes any changes to this essential program.**

Thank you for standing with us to keep the Bottle Bill strong and thriving for generations to come.

