



Bob Hart
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Land Use Planning and Development

April 30, 2025

Members of the House Committee on Revenue

Re: HB 3940 - Testimony in Opposition

Chair Nathanson, Vice – Chairs Reschke and Walters and members of the committee.

I have been a leader in the opposition to SB 762, the Wildfire Map and property owner mandates that has brought us to the repeal of the map and mandates supported by Senator Golden that drafted the original bill. While this does not solve the Wildfire problems here in Oregon, the proposals on how to accomplish this task are not supported by the people of Oregon. The proposal of HB 3940 is no different. In reviewing the testimony already submitted, there are 227 submittals as of Wednesday evening with only 12 submittals in support. The proposal for a fee on beverage containers is a very regressive tax that hurts the low income people the most. The Facebook page that opposes the Wildfire Map has over 6500 members that will more than likely be opposed to this addition to the bottle bill. As word gets out about this bill more opposition will be directed at the Legislature.

In reviewing additional parts of this bill, I see that a tax on the insurance companies will also be collected and split between the State Fire Marshal and the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS). The people of Oregon already blame the state for the massive increase for insurance premiums and cancellation of policies. SB 82 was adopted last session to try to separate the state from any blame for the insurance increases. This proposed bill will add to the anger and frustration of citizens of Oregon

Additionally, the increase in the Forest Products Harvest Tax from 62.5 cents to 100 cents per thousand board feet is a 60% increase in taxes. With the high cost of materials and the extreme shortage of housing in Oregon, such an increase cannot be justified.

I urge you in the strongest terms possible to stop this bill from advancing any further.

Respectfully,
Bob Hart, Planning Consultant
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