

Submitter: Thea Wessel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3940

For over five decades, Oregon's Bottle Bill has stood as a national beacon of environmental innovation—keeping our landscapes clean, supporting families and nonprofits, and powering a private, efficient recycling system that operates without a single taxpayer dollar. Each year, Oregonians return more than 2 billion containers and receive over \$200 million in refunds, proving the Bottle Bill's enduring success and trusted infrastructure.

Now, this proven model is at risk. While the need for sustainable wildfire funding is urgent, tying it to a program completely unrelated in cause or function is misguided. There's no connection between container recycling and wildfire prevention—and compromising one effective environmental solution to fund another could mean we lose both.

Diverting resources or altering the mechanics of the Bottle Bill threatens to unravel a system that has served every corner of our state. We can and must find a better way to fund wildfire defense—one that doesn't sacrifice a program Oregonians rely on and believe in.

I respectfully urge you to protect the integrity of the Bottle Bill and oppose HB 3940A if it includes changes that would harm this vital program.

Thank you for your service and thoughtful consideration.