



May 1, 2025

Representative Nathanson, Chair
House Committee on Revenue
Oregon Legislature

Re: Environment Oregon & OSPIRG oppose the inclusion of the "Beverage Container Surcharge" in House Bill 3940

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the Committee,

Environment Oregon is a policy and action group with one mission: to restore and protect the natural world. Our staff works for clean air, clean water, clean energy, wildlife, open spaces and a livable climate. OSPIRG is a statewide, public interest group.

We oppose the inclusion of the Beverage Container Surcharge (sections 1-2) in House Bill 3940. This proposed new five cent tax on all beverage containers, which would fund wildfire prevention and response, is a major threat to one of Oregon's most important recycling programs: the Bottle Bill.

Oregon's Bottle Bill is an important program to Oregonians, and is considered a national model for how to effectively prevent litter and promote recycling. Oregonians pay a ten cent deposit on beverage containers with the expectation that it will be refunded when returned. If this proposed bill passes, Oregonians would pay 15 cents per container, but only get 10 cents back when returned. This will reduce trust in the program, and we're very concerned that the program would have less participation and be less effective as a result.

There is no doubt that wildfire prevention/response is important to the health and safety of Oregonians, but using the Bottle Bill as a mechanism to fund something not directly tied to littering or recycling is not prudent. Please remove the Beverage Container Surcharge sections from House Bill 3940 and protect Oregon's Bottle Bill.

Sincerely,

Celeste Meiffren-Swango
Environment Oregon
State Director

Charlie Fisher
OSPIRG
State Director