

To: Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and the Environment

From: Dylan de Thomas, VP of Public Policy & Government Affairs, The Recycling Partnership

Re: **Testimony in opposition to HB 3940**

May 1, 2025

Thank you Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Levy, Vice-Chair Gamba, members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment; for the record, my name is Dylan de Thomas, and represent The Recycling Partnership. I am testifying in opposition of House Bill 3940.

I lead state policy work for The Recycling Partnership, a national nonprofit that collaborates with communities, policymakers and more than 80 companies to invest in and strengthen public recycling programs across the country. And we have worked to design, negotiate and support extended producer responsibility laws across the U.S., including right here in my home state of Oregon, where we have the honor of being a representative on our state's EPR advisory council.

Extended producer responsibility laws require producers that take responsibility for the goods and packaging they put onto the marketplace, ensuring they are responsibly managed, because when they do, it supports local jobs, the economy and the environment. Bottle bills, like our state's iconic program, are a type of EPR law.

While we laud the intent behind the wildfire prevention/response bill, placing the onus on beverage containers, which are already paying their fair share to deliver those benefits to bring glass, plastic and aluminum into the circular economy, would greatly undermine the success of our bottle bill, the most successful and impactful in the U.S.

It could also keep other such laws from being passed across the country, further eroding the ability of other state legislatures to unlock the benefits of comprehensive recycling collection policies for their states.

We also believe it would be confusing to consumers, who would not understand why they are not able to redeem their full deposit as they have grown used to for generations.

Lastly, we do not see the relation between wildfires and Oregon's Bottle Bill, making the justification to consider this policy questionable. The Recycling Partnership strongly urges you to oppose HB

3940 as written or to adopt the -2 amendments and remove the added fee/tax on beverage containers from this legislation.

Thank you for including us in today's hearing.

Sincerely,

Dylan de Thomas
VP of Public Policy & Government Affairs
The Recycling Partnership