



To: House Committee On Revenue
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR

Date: May 1, 2025

Sub: Testimony in opposition to inclusion of the Bottle Bill in HB 3940A

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

The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV). It is a network of 40 not-for-profit organizations throughout Oregon, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy.

HB 3940A's inclusion of the Bottle Bill is that threat. The OCN and OLCV oppose the inclusion of the Bottle Bill in HB 3940 and urge the committee to remove the Bottle Bill from the legislation.

Oregon's Bottle Bill is a model of excellence in industry stewardship. It consistently achieves the gold-standard in redemption rates (90.4% in 2024) and recycling outcomes. High levels of participation across the state means that our beaches, waterways and roadsides stay cleaner and greener. Other states look to Oregon for our best-in-class system. Programs like BottleDrop Give raise over \$5.5 million for nearly 7,000 Oregon non-profits across the state.

One of the great things about Oregon's Bottle Bill is that the beverage industry bears the cost of the system, not taxpayers. Corporations should pay the cost of what they put in our environment, and Oregon does that better than any other state.

Oregon's Bottle Bill is an advanced form of Extended Producer Responsibility, where OBRC serves as the operational steward on behalf of the beverage industry and invests the value of unclaimed refunds directly into the operation, improvement and expansion of the network. The entire value of unclaimed refunds (\$21.9 million in 2024) is invested back into the system helping fund recycling facilities, redemption centers, processing equipment, and more.

Using the Bottle Bill to fund other state programs will have drastic consequences: lower recycling rates, less recycled material, and more beverage containers being discarded as litter—becoming a problem instead of a solution.

Finding sustainable funding for wildfire management is important, but breaking one Oregon's most successful environmental programs is not the right approach.

Please remove the Bottle Bill from HB 3940A.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eliza Walton".

Sincerely,
Eliza Walton
Coalition Director
Oregon Conservation Network
Oregon League of Conservation Voters
Phone: 208-451-4794 | email: eliza@olcv.org