

Submitter: David Carlson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3940

I use the Bottle Drop program for two primary reasons: 1. Getting back the deposit money adds a bit to my grocery purchasing power, and 2. It incentivizes me to help keep Oregon landfill free of excess glass and aluminum waste. I'm sure that most Oregonians feel the same incentive for getting back a bit of money, and without that incentive there will be the ultimate result of not only more landfill, but very likely more litter on our roads, trails, and waterways. It's only 10 cents, but for the price of 10 cents, it saves over the cost of paying for cleanup.

I know that wildfire mitigation and protection is important -- I live fairly close to a rural/BLM boundary. I approach each fire season with concern over a disaster in the future. Knowing that there is funding to help prevent and halt wildfires helps to calm that concern. Of course we do what we can to harden our home and property against a wildfire, but professional and volunteer services are extremely important to give protection.

Although this sounds like I want it both ways, in fact I must admit I do. So, I urge you to consider other alternatives for funding the wildfire issues. Perhaps a larger cut from the lottery funds might be a source, or a bond to levee some funding via property taxes. I don't know if County property taxes can be metered based on property location near a risk area, but that is one thought. I've heard that the wildfire risk map is once again in consideration, and I sure don't want to incentivize insurance companies to take advantage of it to justify raising premiums. When that issue is settled and legislated to protect against unfair pricing, perhaps such a map can be a tool for allocating tax levees based on location, for wildfire funding. Just a couple ideas.

Thank you for standing firm to oppose HB 3940A.