



Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you regarding HB 3940 A.

I work with thousands of nonprofits fundraising with BottleDrop Give. Through this program, Oregon nonprofits across the state encourage their supporters to donate their bottles and cans to help fund their work.

Nonprofits using this program represent a wide variety of causes and support diverse populations across the state. They are your local schools, PTOs, food banks, animal rescues, senior centers, veteran support groups, churches, sports teams, parks, environmental conservation groups, and more. They provide valuable services that enhance the daily lives of countless residents of all ages throughout Oregon.

Thanks to the generosity of Oregonians, nonprofits participating in our program raise more than \$5 million each year by recycling more than 50 million bottles and cans. Since we launched our fundraising program in 2009, more than 7,000 nonprofits collectively raised over \$35 million to support their work.

Changing Oregon's Bottle Bill in any way has the potential to harm this program, which in turn would not only harm the nonprofits who rely on these funds but would also impact those benefiting from the services and programs they provide to their communities.

Our participants regularly share how much they love this program with us. I wanted to highlight several important reasons why this program works so well, with supporting quotes from real nonprofits who fundraise with BottleDrop.

It is an Approachable Way to Raise Funds.

- *"We knew it would be a way that everyone could help without breaking the bank."*
- *"We don't have to ask friends and family to constantly buy something, it's like silent fundraising without people feeling like they are spending money on just another fundraiser."*
- *"Anyone and everyone is able to support us."*
- *"This is a way that folks who have even the bare minimum, but want to donate, still can support our cause and I think that's so incredible."*

It Builds Community.

- *"We have made lasting friendships, helped keep Oregon clean, and helped get our veterans to their appointments."*
- *"Doing a monthly donation drive has helped our local community come together to help us."*
- *"My favorite part of fundraising with BottleDrop Give is seeing the community come together, saving 10 cents at a time, to help each other and save lives."*
- *"BottleDrop Give has given us the opportunity to grow our donor base to include an even broader audience through simple donations of bottles and cans."*

It is Easy and Reliable.

- *"It is so easy and has helped our fundraising tremendously."*
- *"There have been times in the past, during the pandemic and shortly thereafter, that this was the only way we could raise money."*
- *"This has been our biggest and most reliable fundraiser. It's stable and consistent. We've been so lucky to have such a supportive community!"*
- *"It took a couple years to get our community here to donate their bottles and cans, but now it's like second nature. The funds raised annually help us provide partial scholarships for many families."*

It is a Win for Nonprofits and a Win for the Environment.

- *"My favorite part about this program is that it supports environmental sustainability."*
- *"I love raising much needed funds for our school while helping the environment."*
- *"Our supporters get a very good feeling of support AND helping the environment."*
- *"Donors praise our efforts, tell their neighbors, and feel they are helping 'save the world.'"*

It Helps Cover Expenses that are Essential for their Operations.

- *"It's a great program and we couldn't provide all the services we do without it."*
- *"Because of the BottleDrop program in 2024, we were able to help purchase new vans to transport veterans to the hospital and doctor's appointments."*
- *"This has been a lifesaver for our team. We are considered a club and do not receive any financial support from the school. Some kids likely wouldn't be able to participate in the equestrian program without the help of this type of fundraising."*
- *"It has been a major funding resource for our organization and an easy program to implement."*
- *"When people know exactly where the money is going and how it's helping, it really keeps them motivated! We have found that it's important to remind supporters that this is not a short-term program, and that we need and appreciate their ongoing donations."*

As you can see, this program is established, loved, and depended upon. While finding sustainable funding to help mitigate and respond to wildfires is crucial, it would be devastating to break one strong environmental legacy to solve another environmental problem.

I urge you to adopt the Dash A8 amendment or oppose HB 3940 A if the Bottle Bill is included in any way. Please consider the unintended consequences and impact it would have on nonprofits and the countless Oregonians who depend on their essential and life-changing services.

Sincerely,

Liz Philpott
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Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative