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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: HB4013

The producer responsibility program incentivizes environmental responsibility of the companies by charging a lesser membership fee for more environmentally friendly products.

It seems like this bill is a way for wine companies to avoid the fees entirely for a period of time by becoming exempt from the program under the premise that they need more research to become more environmentally friendly.

The less environmentally friendly a company is, the more it costs taxpayers to clean up their mess.

This bill allows wine companies to effectively side-step the program which is unfair to other companies who are paying the membership fee, and taxpayers who are being charged for cleaning up the pollution and enduring its effects caused by wine companies producing less-than environmentally-friendly products.

Oregon already has an industrial glass recycling process that accounts for the soda lime glass materials of wine bottles, so it doesn't require the development of a new process to dispose of them in an environmentally-friendly way. The glass recycling process even accounts for borosilicate glasses of beer bottles. If such a process needed to be improved on the recycling side, then a bill should be drafted to fund research specifically for separating the two glasses; not providing an exemption for wine companies so they can save money on state fees.