



Oregon
Environmental
Council
It's Your Oregon

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Letter of Support for HB 4142

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council supports HB 4142.

Every week, most Oregonians engage in what has become a household ritual: recycling items that are no longer of use to the household, but can find a new life in new products. Recycling is core to what Oregonians value about Oregon*, and we must ensure that our state captures the greatest value possible from recycled materials. This means keeping in Oregon the green jobs associated with processing recyclables into new products. To that end, OEC supports HB 4142, which expands the state's existing preference for procurement of recycled products to include a preference for paper manufactured at paper mills located in Oregon.

Paper mills in Oregon need a boost. The state can support them, and the good, green jobs that they create, through this simple public purchasing preference that will send more of the paper recycled by our citizens and businesses to local mills instead of to mills across the ocean. Sadly, paper processing in China is a highly polluting industry, not done in a way that's good for the environment or good for the health of the workers.

Oregonians want their recycling efforts to be fruitful. This means protecting the environment by keeping as much useful waste out of landfills as possible. It means ensuring that the processing of these recycled materials is safe for our air, our water and our workers. And it means employing Oregonians in the jobs that take the old and make it new.

We urge you to support HB 4142. It will help save good jobs for Oregonians, and it will help ensure sustainable processing of recovered paper.

*OEC has been there from recycling's beginning—leading citizen support for the Bottle Bill in 1971, establishing the first recycling hotline in Oregon in 1972, and leading the successful campaign for Oregon's curbside recycling law in 1983.

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