



MEASURE: HB 4142
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SUBMITTED BY: Rick Winterhalter

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To: The Honorable Representative Bill Kennemer, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Chris Garrett, Co-Chair
Members of the House Business and Labor Committee

From: Rick Winterhalter, Board Chair

RE: HB 4142 - SUPPORT

The Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) is a not-for-profit coalition of individuals, governments, not-for-profit organizations and businesses committed to encouraging waste prevention and recycling in Oregon. AOR provides a forum for organizations and individuals to come together to discuss, understand and develop solutions to problems faced by recyclers in Oregon.

Oregon's experience with paper recycling exemplifies the kind of stakeholder engagement that has been needed to achieve stable and successful recycling programs. Over the past several years, changes in collection technologies and markets for recovered materials have raised issues that the recycling community has been trying to address.

Issues addressed have included: how to educate residents about what is recyclable in order to reduce contamination; and developing "best practices" for operation of material recovery facilities in order improve the quality of materials delivered to paper mills. While these efforts continue, we recognize retaining strong local markets for recovered materials offers many benefits to Oregonians.

Maintaining strong markets for in local paper mills for our recovered paper is important for many reasons: the mills provide good jobs; we can better ensure they, rather than off-shore mills, operate under sound environmental standards/controls; and also that the climate change benefits of local production and reduced transportation begin to be recognized.

We believe HB 4142 is a good first step in addressing what is a complex and difficult set of problems. AOR will continue to work with our members and others to develop ways to continually grow Oregon's recycling economy.

We urge the Committee to vote for HB 4142.

