



ROGUE CREAMERY®

HANDMADE CHEESE SINCE 1933

311 N. FRONT STREET | P.O. BOX 3606 | CENTRAL POINT, OREGON U.S.A. 97502 | P. 541.665.1155 | F. 541.665.1133 | ROGUECREAMERY.COM

February 18, 2015

Senator Chris Edwards
900 Court St.
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Edwards:

I am writing to share a few points in support of Senate Bills 245 and 263. Both bills were created after extensive meetings with stakeholders in Oregon. I believe revenue from these bills will advance the redistribution of edible and perishable food in Oregon and further promote the reduction of waste and conservation of valuable resources.

Here are a few points regarding each bill:

- SB 245 authorizes an increase in the statewide per-ton “tipping fee” which is charged on garbage disposal. These state tipping fees are a small portion of overall garbage bills.
- This would be the first such fee increase since 1994.
- Revenue raised will be used to implement Oregon’s *2050 Vision for Materials Management*, including projects to reduce food waste; improve recycling, composting and anaerobic digestion; reduce toxic chemicals in products; safely manage hazardous waste from households; and help Oregon businesses reduce pollution and conserve resources.
- Revenue will also be used to help fund local projects through grants to local governments.
 - DEQ used to award such grants (prior to the recession when revenue declined significantly) and projects in Jackson County included funding assistance to ACCESS (the Community Action Agency of Jackson County) to pay for refrigerated equipment allowing for the collection and redistribution of edible but perishable food; the Jackson County “Water on Wheels” program that provides drinking water “on tap” at events and venues such as the Jackson County fairgrounds (previously, event goers had to purchase bottled water); and support for the Jackson County Recycle Partnership.



People dedicated to sustainability, service, and the art and tradition of creating the world's finest handmade cheese. In 2014, Rogue Creamery registered as the first B Company in Oregon, distinguishing Rogue Creamery as a company organized for social benefit.





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- SB 245 also includes a fee adjustment mechanism that would allow the Environmental Quality Commission (by rule) to make small (no more than 3% per year) future increases in per-ton tipping fees.
 - Revenue comes from per-ton fees, so if disposal tonnage goes up, revenue goes up and if disposal tonnage goes down, revenue goes down. Combined with inflation and a fixed per-ton fee (the current situation), this makes it more difficult to manage the program's work and budget.
- A companion bill, SB 263, updates Oregon's Opportunity to Recycle Program (which was last updated in 1991) as well as statewide and local waste reduction goals (which were last updated in 2001).
- Both bills are the result of an extensive stakeholder consultation process, including a stakeholder workgroup and three subgroups involving more than 100 individuals and 22 meetings, as well as more than 30 additional meetings that DEQ held with local partners, including several meetings in Jackson County.

I hope that you will support conservation, recycling and redistribution by supporting SB 245 and 263.

Regards,

Rogue Creamery

David Gremmels
President

cc: Beth Reiley



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