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**RECYCLERS**

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February 25, 2015

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE, Hearing Room C  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee:

The Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) is a trade association focused on advancing waste prevention and recycling in Oregon. AOR supports SB 263 and SB 245.

SB 263 and SB 245 are the result of a multi-year stakeholder process to evaluate potential updates to Oregon's solid waste and recycling statutes. These proposals represent an important opportunity to reduce waste and increase composting and recycling in Oregon. AOR members have played a key role in the development of SB 263 and SB 245, participating in DEQ workgroups and providing ongoing feedback to the proposals. SB 263 and SB 245 reflect stakeholder input and represent many points of compromise.

SB 263 modernizes decades-old recycling and waste prevention statutes and goals. The proposal expands program options and updates local and statewide material recovery goals. DEQ held public meetings across the state to develop aspirational goals and program elements, and AOR supports the proposed updates.

SB 245 adjusts tipping and permit fees assessed on tons of solid waste disposed in Oregon to provide stable program funding. Restored funding would provide programs and grants for household hazardous waste collection, waste prevention and reuse, recycling, composting, and waste recovery. These fees have not been adjusted in more than twenty years, and AOR supports the modest adjustment.

This legislative package is key to implementing *Materials Management in Oregon: 2050 Vision and Framework for Action*, adopted by Oregon Environmental Quality Commission in 2012. AOR is committed to achieving a system of sustainable materials management and supports these proposals as an important next step.

AOR supports SB 263 and SB 245 and urges your support.

Sincerely,

Alison Briggs-Ungerer  
Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers

