



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
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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

City of Portland supports SB 263 and SB 245

Dear Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee:

Oregon is recognized as a national leader in solid waste management and resource conservation through recycling. We have made significant progress in material recovery, yet many opportunities to improve remain. SB 263 and SB 245 represent an important next step in Oregon's materials management efforts.

SB 263 and SB 245 are the products of an inclusive and thorough multi-year stakeholder process. The City of Portland participated in more than twenty workgroup and sub-group meetings, and the resulting legislative proposals accurately reflect the process.

SB 263 updates decades-old recycling and waste prevention statutes and goals. The City of Portland is offering more services and programs than currently required by law. SB 263 will increase requirements for Portland and more appropriately reflect the existing landscape of local efforts. DEQ recognizes that the greatest potential for increasing material recovery lies in the urban communities of the Willamette Valley, and is proposing that the state's three largest wastesheds (Metro, Lane, Marion) do more to increase recovery than other parts of the state. The City of Portland supports the Metro 2025 recovery goal of 64 percent.

SB 245 adjusts tipping fees assessed to tons of solid waste disposed in Oregon. These fees represent a very small portion of overall garbage rates and have not been adjusted for more than twenty years. The City of Portland supports the proposed increase of solid waste tipping fees and the increase of permit fees by rule. These fee adjustments will stabilize DEQ staff and programs and will provide benefits to local governments through restored and enhanced programs and grants.

The modernization of Oregon's recycling and waste prevention statutes, and the adjustment of tipping and permit fees, will provide a strong foundation for the implementation of the DEQ's *Materials Management in Oregon: 2050 Vision and Framework for Action*. This work represents an important update in resource conservation, and the City of Portland supports DEQ in its effort to address environmental impacts across the full life cycle of materials and products.

The City of Portland strongly endorses SB 263 and SB 245 and urges your support.

Susan Anderson
Director



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