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Date: February 25, 2015 at 11:32:01 AM PST
To: <beth.reiley@state.or.us>
Subject: Senate Bills 245 and 263; Policy Option Package 132

Senators,

I am writing today to express my support for Senate Bills 245 and 263; Policy Option Package 132.

Senate Bill 245; Policy Option Package 132 This bill and policy option package supports stable funding for materials management programs. In Oregon, DEQ program revenue is generated by tipping and permit fees assessed on tons of solid waste at disposal. Slight increases in tip and permit fees will provide funding for programs that protect Oregon's soil, water, and overall livability. Since waste is a voluntary behavior these modest increases will have little affect on the majority of Oregonians. Senate Bill 245 also eliminates an unfair loopholes that has adverse affects on many for-profit waste handlers. It levels the playing field by requiring full fees for waste used as landfill cover and materials disposed in dry waste construction and demolition and tire landfills.

Senate Bill 263 updates recycling and waste prevention laws and goals. Current laws were written before the necessity to address climate change; before we had such a clear understanding of the relationship between sustainable materials management and environmental, social and economic health. Besides giving communities more incentive to reduce waste and greater flexibility on meeting goals, it closes a major loophole. Recycling, which most of us consider a basic option in garbage service, is not currently required in multi-family housing. Tenants cannot expect the service as a given, but must rely on the property owner or manager to request it. Many will not, leaving a significant portion of the community unserved, many of which are of moderate to low income.

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