



February 25, 2015

Honorable Chris Edwards, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Or 97301

RE: Senate Bill 245 Relating to Solid Waste Disposal Fees
Senate Bill 263 Relating to the Recycling Opportunity Act

Dear Chair Edwards and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources
Committee:

I am writing to express support for Senate Bills 245 and 263, which would make changes to solid waste disposal fees and update Oregon's Recycling Opportunity Act (ROA). As a member of the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Materials Management Workgroup I worked with stakeholders from around the state to advise DEQ in drafting these bills which are significant steps forward in implementing Oregon's 2050 Vision and Framework for Action.

If approved, these two bills would:

- Increase funding for DEQ and would stabilize program implementation;
- Update the statewide and watershed recovery goals;
- Add new goals for the recovery of food, plastic and carpet;
- Revise and update the methodology in counting materials, and;
- Update the list of potential program elements that jurisdictions choose to implement based on their size and location within the state.

Beaverton, and all other jurisdictions in the Portland metropolitan area, already have local waste reduction and recycling programs that exceed the current requirements of the ROA. This bill will cause us to look towards the future in building programs for our respective communities that will maintain and enhance Oregon's long-standing commitment to caring for the natural, economic and social environments.

The impact of the funding bill on Beaverton would be very small. Our analysis of the proposed increase in the tip fee indicates that the impact would be between three and five cents per month.

The draft legislation produced during more than fourteen months of stakeholder engagement recognizes that our strength as a national leader in recycling is built on allowing the choice of options that work in our respective local communities. The expanded ROA menu of options enables jurisdictions throughout the state to adjust program implementation while giving attention to local goals, local economic conditions and local markets for materials. SB 263 also continues to expand our focus beyond "just" recycling, to a broader materials management concept by giving increased attention to upstream design and production, sustainable consumption and use and not simply end-of-life discards management.

I urge you to support SB 245 and 263. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Scott Keller
Senior Program Manager
Office of the Mayor
City of Beaverton