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To: Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Date: February 25, 2015

RE: Senate Bills 245 and 263

Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee: On behalf of the Sierra Club's more than 20,000 members and supporters in Oregon, I wanted to offer our enthusiastic support for Senate Bills 245 and 263. Both bills are the product of years of stakeholder discussions and negotiations, and are long overdue measures to bolster our state materials management and waste reduction efforts. They deserve this committee's support.

Senate Bill 245 would increase the solid waste disposal fees ("tipping fees") that the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) can charge. These tipping fees have remained static for two decades now and we are way past due to bring them in line with the times. DEQ needs more funding to direct toward waste reduction and recycling, and SB 245 will be a great help in that regard.

Similarly, Senate Bill 263 will bring our waste reduction and recycling goals into the 21st century. This bill updates statewide goals for the reduction of solid waste in Oregon and establishes specific statewide recovery and recycling goals for many materials. Again, it is long past time to make these necessary revisions in Oregon.

For these reasons, we strongly support Senate Bills 245 and 263 and urge you to do the same. Thank you very much for considering our comments and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.