



Eugene Mayor's Office
Kitty Piercy

February 24, 2015

Senator Chris Edwards, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Re: SB 245 and SB 263 relating to materials management programs

Dear Chair Edwards and members of the Committee:

The City of Eugene applauds the work of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in developing the innovative *2050 Vision and Framework for Action*. This ground-breaking strategy, focused on sustainable materials management, brings a welcome new direction to the already successful work in the state to address waste reduction and material recovery. It's now time to carry that vision forward, and SB 245 and 263 are necessary to make that happen.

This legislative package, along with the budget provisions to support it, will enact a much needed update to the state's recovery and waste generation goals and provide the resources needed to reach them. Not all wastes are created equal, and the strategy contained in this legislative package will target those that have the greatest environmental impact, such as food, plastic and carpet. It will also eliminate the outdated and ambiguous 2% recycling credits in favor of more robust and definitive requirements for watershed recovery programs. We're pleased to see that it will also restore the local grant program to assist local governments and other partners in developing creative solutions to materials management. We look forward to working with DEQ to find and test those innovations.

These efforts by DEQ align with and advance many of the goals for the City of Eugene. We continue to develop and launch new material recovery programs, like our Love Food Not Waste program for commercial food waste composting. Sustainable materials management is also a cornerstone of our climate action planning. Eugene recently enacted the Climate Recovery Ordinance, which codifies our climate action goals for the community and our city operations. We will have to curb the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production of goods and food if we are to meet the aggressive targets in this ordinance. This legislation will provide an important foundation for reaching our goals.

The City urges the committee to support Senate Bills 245 and 263.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Kitty Piercy
Mayor of Eugene