



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

Innovation. Collaboration. Practical Solutions.

May 5, 2015

House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room D
Salem, OR 97301

City of Portland supports SB 263

Dear Chair Vega Pederson 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 represents an important next step in Oregon's materials management efforts.

SB 263 updates decades-old recycling and waste prevention statutes and goals. The bill increases requirements for Portland and more appropriately reflects 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 proposed Metro 2025 recovery goal of 64 percent.

SB 263 is the product 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. The bill was amended in the Senate to address stakeholder comments and represents an effort with broad stakeholder support.

The modernization of Oregon's recycling and waste prevention statutes, together with the adjustment of tipping and permit fees (SB 245), 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 urges your support.

Susan Anderson
Director



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