

**Testimony of Randy Tucker, Legislative Affairs Manager
In Support of Senate Bill 263
House Committee on Energy and the Environment
May 5, 2015**



Chair Vega Pederson and members of the Committee:

Metro is the regional government of the Portland metropolitan area, with major responsibilities in managing and reducing the region's solid waste and protecting and overseeing a regional system of parks and natural areas. Metro serves a population of 1.5 million, providing services and educational resources that protect the environment and reduce the amount and toxicity of the solid waste stream.

Metro strongly supports SB 263. Passage of this bill and its companion funding bill SB 245 will provide the direction and resources necessary for the Department of Environmental Quality to implement the 2050 Vision and Framework for Action adopted by the Environmental Quality Commission.

We commend the DEQ for engaging a very wide spectrum of stakeholders in developing this legislative proposal. Over the last two years, Metro participated in multiple DEQ workgroups to update Oregon's statutes pertaining to recycling and waste reduction programs, goals, measures, and funding for DEQ's Materials Management Program. DEQ listened closely to stakeholders' concerns both during and after that process, including while this bill was under consideration in the Senate. As a result, we believe that SB 263 as amended reflects a broad consensus among stakeholders.

Metro supports SB 263's provisions regarding new goals and recycling programs. The bill proposes a new recovery goal for our region. While Metro and local governments will have to work hard to meet this goal, we believe it is achievable through strong collaboration and innovation by stakeholders in our region. We also expect our region to play a significant role in helping achieve the proposed statewide waste recovery goals specifically for food, plastic and carpet wastes.

SB 263 ensures Oregon will continue its leadership role in developing programs that increase opportunities for all Oregonians to reduce the amount of waste they generate and to improve the quality and amounts of materials they recycle.

We urge you to pass SB 263.