



**Testimony to the House Committee on Transportation and Economic
Development
HB 4089
Angela Crowley-Koch, Legislative Director
February 3, 2016**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

OEC supports reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation

Climate change is a serious threat to our way of life in Oregon. It deserves immediate action to protect the health and well being of Oregonians. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including those from the transportation sector, is an important part of Oregon's strategy to address climate change.

OEC is supportive of the stated intent of HB 4089 - to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the transportation of goods procured by the State of Oregon. Emissions from freight are one of the fastest growing sources of climate pollution in Oregon, and a major source of ambient air toxics.

OEC has the following recommendations for ways this bill could further advance the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with procurement:

1. Provide greater flexibility for agencies to identify and evaluate options like cardboard pallets

While the available data suggests that cardboard pallets could offer a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions associated with the transportation of goods, we believe that there may be a variety of other cost effective opportunities to reduce emissions. We recommend that Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality partner to identify and evaluate options including cardboard pallets and determine where they can achieve the most practical and efficient reductions in procurement.

2. Allow Oregon DAS to pilot the most promising options before making permanent changes

While some solutions may yield good results in private companies, public procurement requirements and processes vary in important ways. That's why we believe it's important for our public procurement experts to be involved in determining the most practical and cost effective options for emissions reduction. Based on an evaluation of the lifecycle benefits of different greenhouse gas emissions reduction options, we recommend allowing Oregon DAS to pilot the most promising options and assess performance before establishing requirements. Once those pilot projects demonstrate positive results, they should be made permanent and implemented across state agencies.

To help ensure accountability and transparency, Oregon DAS should track progress on these emissions reduction options and report on it in one of their existing biennial reports.

OEC applauds the desire to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through more efficient movement of goods in Oregon. We hope that there is a path forward on this legislation that works with Oregon DAS in a cooperative way to identify and implement cost effective actions for reducing emissions.