



OREGON REFUSE & RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

Testimony For the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

On Senate Bill 2

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ORRA is the statewide trade association representing solid waste management companies in Oregon. ORRA members collect and process most of Oregon's residential and commercial refuse and recyclables, as well as operate material recovery facilities, compost facilities, and many of Oregon's municipal solid waste transfer stations and landfills. In most communities across the state, ORRA members do this work under the direction of, and in partnership with, city and county government.

Safety is a paramount concern within the solid waste industry and ORRA applauds the goals behind SB 2. However, the bill as drafted has some unintended consequences for solid waste and recycling collection haulers. Many collection companies require drivers use laptop computers in collection trucks. SB 2, as drafted, would prohibit the use of a laptop computer while operating a vehicle. Drivers use computers to determine the route map, review customer account information, and report back to the main office customer behavior information (overweight containers, contamination in recycling containers, and other information). The use of electronic equipment has greatly increased the efficiency of solid waste and recycling collection operations.

ORRA believes the intended purpose of SB 2 is not to prohibit on-board electronic systems in licensed commercial driving operations and would ask to Committee to consider amending the bill to exempt these activities. ORRA members operate in dense urban areas with large commercially licensed vehicles. They take great pride in having a well-trained and safety conscience driver workforce. On board computing systems help them achieve those goals. Thank you for your consideration.