

**TO: Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee**  
**FROM: Cindy Robert**  
**RE: Opposition to SB 836**  
**DATE: April 5, 2017**



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 over 1.5 million, providing services and educational resources that protect the environment and reduce the amount and toxicity of the solid waste stream.

The Metro Council strongly supported SB 478 in 2015. The bill, which addressed chemicals of concern for children's health, aligned with efforts by the Department of Environmental Quality, Metro and other stakeholders to develop a comprehensive and systematic toxics reduction strategy for the state. Following passage of the bill, Metro staff participated in the Oregon Health Authority's rulemaking process and submitted comments in support of the draft rules.

SB 836 would weaken certain provisions of SB 478. Metro is opposed to SB 836 and believes it is unnecessary and misguided.

Issues addressed in the legislation (inaccessibility and the definition of "de minimis level") were extensively discussed during rulemaking. SB 836 would unnecessarily supplant the results of those well-reasoned discussions.

Metro supported the original legislation because the list of chemicals of concern covered under it was scientifically well grounded. The legislation also provided well-considered ways to revise the list of chemicals. Provisions in SB 836 requiring the Oregon Health Authority to conduct additional analyses and to receive additional legislative approval before they can act to have chemicals removed or substituted are unwarranted.

We believe the current statute and the rulemaking available under it provide the best path forward to ensure the health and safety of Oregon's children.

We urge you to not move SB 836 forward.