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Briggs-Ungerer Consulting, LLC

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February 19, 2019

House Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE, Room 347  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

The Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) is a trade association focused on advancing waste prevention and recycling in Oregon. AOR's diverse membership includes more than 200 businesses, governments, nonprofits and individuals working together on the common goal of achieving a system of sustainable materials management in Oregon.

AOR supports HB 2509 to advance waste reduction and reduce the impact of single-use plastic shopping bags on Oregon's recycling system. Plastic bags placed in home and business recycling bins get tangled in the equipment used to sort and process materials which poses hazards to workers and leads to costly delays at recycling companies when sorting lines have to be turned off to remove plastic bags.

Single-use plastic bag bans are an effective way to reduce the amount of plastic bags that end up in home recycling. A 2015 waste sort study conducted by Metro showed that were lower levels of plastic bag contamination in home recycling bins in the city of Portland, where a plastic bag ban is in place, when compared to the region as a whole.

HB 2509 also supports waste reduction by encouraging shoppers to use reusable bags. HB 2509 is consistent with AOR's vision and commitment to achieving a system committed to achieving a system of sustainable materials management in Oregon as the bill supports waste reduction, recycling, and thoughtful consumption.

AOR urges your support for this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,



Alison Briggs-Ungerer  
Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers