



May 29, 2019

Ginny Burdick, Chair  
Senate Rules Committee  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Burdick, Vice-Chair Baertschiger and members of the committee:

Recology, Inc. is an employee-owned waste management company, devoted to diverting waste from landfills. Recology has more than 45 operating companies that serve more than 725,000 residential and 110,000 commercial customers in Oregon, California and Washington. In Oregon, Recology provides hauling services and operates recycling and composting sites around the state.

Recology Oregon supports HB 2509B and hopes you will pass the bill out of your committee to the floor. Limiting the availability of plastic bags coming from retail stores and restaurants will have many benefits, including limiting plastic generation and usage which benefits the environment. Beyond that, plastic bags can be problematic for recyclers. Single-use plastic bags end up, inappropriately, in recycling streams and get wrapped around the machines that sort recycling. This scenario is common and leads to time wasted getting the plastic off and fixing the machines.

We think this effort to limit the use of single use plastic bags will benefit the environment and the recycling stream and should be moved forward at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your leadership,

Gary Blake  
General Manager, Recology Ashland