

Thank you to the Committee on Energy and Environment for the chance to offer testimony. I am supportive of SB 14, SB 581 and SB 582.

I disagree with one of the people who testified that Oregon's recycling system is not broken. Oregon's recycling system is broken and so is that of our entire country, for a whole host of reasons. China no longer being willing to accept our garbage is just the tip of the (melting) iceberg of course. While I would absolutely welcome and embrace a robust and aggressive national approach to breaking up with plastics and improving our recycling systems, I applaud Oregon legislators for taking the initiative on a state level to serve as an example and hopefully an entry point for driving better and more sustainable waste stream. Let's start at home and let the others follow. The industry representatives show again and again that they don't want to pay for the materials that they are either creating or using, leaving the consumer to pick up the price even though the public clearly wants recycling to be easy to understand and do.

If collection and recycling is too expensive for the producers of these fossil fuel based products, then let's expect them to innovate to find better ways, better packaging, greater respectability, less packaging, less confusion and less waste in the landfills. I don't believe for a second that they can't come up with better solutions. If they can't or won't push for innovative solutions to reduce waste and potential contamination, they should have to pay for the collection and recycling of the materials that they are producing and distributing. I am demanding LESS PLASTIC (and the lessened reliance on fossil fuels to create it) and more accountability for the plastic that continues to be made.

Not more packaging, but better packaging.

No one must have plastic bags at any store. I have been using reusable bags for well over 30 years. Think of what that kind of impact would be if amplified by this kind of legislation.

I see "wishful recycling" every single Friday when the bins go out behind our townhouses. I see it all the time when businesses, locations or venues offer chasing arrow recycling bins. You've all see it and probably done it--reading the labels and symbols, the confused look, the well-intentioned toss that is all too often accompanied by a frustrated and hopeful shrug. We can do better.

People want to do the right thing. Misleading packaging, chasing arrows, false promises get us nowhere and in fact make things worse. People want to be good stewards. Industry and government should do everything they can do support that.

Thank you.