



Leader in
Horticultural
Containers

March 3, 2021

Oregon State Senate
Committee on Energy and Environment 900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301
(Submitted Electronically)

RE: Comments on HB2065 - Relating to modernizing Oregon's recycling system

Chair Beyer and members of the Committee:

On behalf of The HC Companies, Inc., it is my pleasure to present a few comments for consideration regarding HB2065 – Relating to modernizing Oregon’s recycling system. The HC Companies, Inc. has a long-standing reputation within the horticultural industry, providing containers and components vital to container growing and transportation of horticulture-related products.

We appreciate the intent of this proposed legislation and acknowledge the importance of incorporating initiatives, such as those intended under HB2065, that aim to support stabilizing our vital ecosystem. That said, there are a few elements we kindly request for the following considerations:

- The horticultural industries, and products related to the production and transfer of, be exempt from the bill, as many activities currently exist within the horticultural industry specific to reprocessing, recycling, reusing, and innovating products to manage and mitigate any environmental impact.
- Many of Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN) members use plastic pots, that make their way through the supply chain. The Extended Producer Responsibility legislation would add complexity and confusion for many of the retailers, wholesalers, and growers.
- Plastic pots help manage end-product costs in addition to offering protection of any cross-contamination during use (e.g., invasive pests that use trees and plants as hosts for spread).
- Ensure the recycled content of materials outlined in the bill may be post-consumer or post-industrial.

Our industry offers unique value-chain dynamics and comes with a long-legacy of actions already enacted that accommodate our unique methods of interstate commerce, growing processes to deliver quality goods (inclusive of organic herbs, vegetables, etc.), and variability in weather/market demands.

We appreciate the opportunity to speak with representatives from the DEQ and would be pleased to offer additional input at any capacity that may assist in minimizing the inclusion and/or impact of the horticultural industry and its affiliates.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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