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Portland, OR 97214
503.223.6418

April 9, 2021

Re: SB 581/SB 582 -9 Amendments

Chair Beyer, Vice Chair Findley and Senator Dembrow, Senator Robinson and Senator Taylor:

Willamette Riverkeeper has been watching with great interest the Oregon Legislature's work on SB 581 and SB 582, bills relating to modernizing Oregon's recycling system, and other important plastics regulation presented to you this legislative session.

We are disappointed that Oregon appears to have elected to miss a special opportunity to thoroughly modernize management and costs of our waste system for both producers and the public, and to pass on taking much-needed action on the growing problems of single use plastic and plastic waste in our state.

Stronger action from the Oregon Legislature would go a long way in helping groups like ours that are on the ground nearly every week of the year, picking up other people's trash along 187 miles of the Willamette River.

Should you still have any doubts about what these bills could achieve, we cordially invite you to join us for a weekly clean-up in Eugene, Corvallis, Salem, or Portland to experience first-hand what greater producer responsibility can mean for our rivers, oceans, and our public health.

We hope that at a minimum the Oregon Legislature recognizes from the testimony provided by the public and state agencies that significantly greater action is still required, and that the Oregon Legislature has the ability to provide us with more assertive stewardship as this legislation heads to the Oregon House, and as this legislation is revised and strengthened in future legislative sessions.

Sincerely, on behalf of Willamette Riverkeeper,

*Travis Williams,
Executive Director and Riverkeeper*

*Elisabeth Holmes,
Staff Attorney and Member*

*Greg Leo,
Lobbyist and Member*