



*We Feed You*

## **Food Northwest Bullet Point Comments on SB 582 – 9**

Food Northwest is the regional trade association that represents the food manufacturers of Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Food manufacturing is the third largest manufacturing employment sector in the state. We are proud to be the people who feed you!

Food Northwest appreciates the opportunity to offer the following comments on the dash 9 amendments to SB 582.

1. Food Northwest remains strongly opposed to SB 582. The -9 amendment does not address our serious concern that this proposal is far too broad and has not been appropriately constructed.
2. Food processors are currently recycling nearly 100% of their production waste streams. We send very little to landfills. This proposal would disrupt many of those already developed systems while adding extreme cost to our production.
3. At the consumer level, food packaging is an integral part of our food safety process. **Customer safety is the most critical piece of our production process.** This amendment has had absolutely no input from food manufacturers on the impacts to our food safety programs or the availability of alternate packaging materials that will address our critical safety needs. Food packaging, especially food packing designed to keep foods safe from contamination, should be exempt.
4. Food Northwest members are serious about reducing and eliminating waste. Just last month we became the first trade association to join the Pacific Coast Collaborative, a broad coalition of interests working to reduce waste, lower greenhouse gas emissions and provide a model for decisive and coordinated actions that will benefit the environment. This is in addition to the work we are already doing to recycle packaging

waste, seriously reduce our energy intensity, and significantly reduce our carbon footprint. We are serious about recycling, waste reduction and energy efficiency.

5. The bottom line here is that SB 582 needs a lot more work and it desperately needs input from our industry and others that are impacted. We urge you not to support SB 582.