

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

I am a big fan of HB 2574 and hope that passage of this legislation will allow us to more further realize our very human and very real connection to the earth. We know there are limits to the human burden the earth can carry and yet no limit to the ongoing burden. This is a very real and a very significant way we can directly contribute something back to the earth.

The passage of this legislation serves to provide a more natural and earth-responsible means of supporting the journey home for our beloved friends and family.

As soon as I became aware of this endeavor, I was a fan. For me, I cannot imagine being forever encased, even trapped, by the chemicals and structures we've manufactured to forever preserve our dead. Unless we believe a future need to exhume our buried corpses, it makes little logical sense to me beyond that of tradition.

Although cremation appears to have become more popular, it takes an additional and altogether different toll on our environment. I have come to value the clean air afforded me in this great state, in Clackamas County and in our humble CDP of Jennings Lodge; a true gem. We've breathed many pollutants over the last few summers due to devastating forest fires in our county and state.

As an active, albeit asthmatic, 48 year-old father of two active children, who prefer to spend more time outside than in.

I respectfully urge you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Bill Ryder  
Jennings Lodge  
Senate District 20