

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

I, Charlotte August am pleased to offer my support for HB 2574.

It is long past time to offer options that empower humans and offer choices outside of the standard practices of the corporate funeral industry. Please support making this important option available to Oregonians.

It is estimated that every year in the United States we bury:

827,060 gallons of embalming fluid

90,272 tons of steel in caskets and vaults,

2,700 tons of copper and bronze in casket linings,

30,000,000 board feet of hardwood - including wood from endangered forests for caskets,

1.6 million tons of reinforced concrete burial vaults.

HB 2574 is a move toward less polluting practices, protection of valuable resources and wild lands, and provides Oregonians better end of life choices.

I ask for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Charlotte August

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