

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

I, Rhiannon Broyles, am pleased to offer my support for HB 2574.

Although I am part of the youngest voting demographic (18-25 year olds), I spend a lot of time thinking about my life and death. Not only because of this past year and the horrific toll of COVID-19, but because of the ongoing climate crisis. As many people my age do, I spend a great deal of effort worrying over the impacts my decisions have on the environment, from where I buy my vegetables to how many children I plan to have. I think about my life's effects on natural spaces, on animals, and on my fellow humans. I intend to minimize my negative impacts on this tenuously balanced planet in my lifetime, and I ask that you provide me and other Oregonians the opportunity to do the same in death. I hope to participate in an organic reduction for the same reason I am registered as an organ donor--I hope that my death can bring new life. I do not wish to decay in a box in a cemetery that could have instead been a nature preserve. I do not wish to pollute the air with my aerosolized remains through cremation. Instead, I wish to feed a tree, to grow a garden, and to participate in the natural circle of life to the extent that it is possible in this urbanized world. As the aloe vera plant on my mantle, gifted to me by my late great-grandmother, testifies, a plant serves just as much a monument to the dead as a headstone. As those who visit the forests where they have scattered a bit of their loved ones' remains can tell you, the memory of a person can live on in the trees. I ask for your support in this legislation for myself, for my generation, and for those who wish to one day become a part of the planet they love so dearly--to become, simply, earth.

Sincerely,

Rhiannon Broyles

Portland