



OREGON REFUSE & RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

April 7, 2021

The Honorable Lew Frederick
Co-Chair, Ways and Means Education
Subcommittee
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Susan McLain
Co-Chair, Ways and Means Education
Subcommittee
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-477
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chair Frederick and Co-Chair McLain:

I am writing to request the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Education Subcommittee support full funding for **Oregon Consensus**, an important, statewide program funded as part of the dispute resolution services allocation. As a member of the Recycling Steering Committee, I experienced firsthand the expertise of Oregon Consensus, as their team supported the project through its lengthy, complex, and at times, very difficult, process. Without the support of Oregon Consensus, I do not believe the Recycling Steering Committee would have been able to reach consensus. The Recycling Steering Committee process serves as an excellent example of the benefits the program provides in helping to support community-based problem solving.

The Recycling Steering Committee was comprised of a broad, statewide group of diverse interests. We shared a common goal - modernizing Oregon's recycling system - but we approached it from different points of view. It was a process that took over two years; it undertook review of multiple components of the recycling system, weathered changes in leadership at the state agency level, and then was faced with how to complete the most demanding phase of the process during a pandemic. The Oregon Consensus team was flexible, resilient, and professional throughout the process, and their steady support helped the process cross the finish line to consensus.

My experience on the Recycling Steering Committee supports the statement that the Oregon Consensus program provides very distinct and critical service to communities across Oregon, in reaching agreement on contentious issues and supporting implementation of sustainable solutions. I am grateful the Oregon Legislature recognizes the significance of these programs, and I hope and request that it will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,

Kristan Mitchell
Executive Director

C: Ways and Means Education Subcommittee Members

Senator Michael Dembrow
Senator Chuck Thomsen
Representative Teresa Alonso Leon
Representative Bobby Levy
Representative E. Werner Reschke
Representative Ricki Ruiz