

I urge you to pass SB 582-1. In 1993 I was hired by DEQ to educate Oregonians about their opportunity to recycle (which I did for seven years). It is astounding to me that this system has had no updates in the past three decades. Carrying a cloth bag and reusable cup only goes so far in saving the planet. In fact as you know, the waste stream is dramatically different today, so the programs managing that waste should be changed to reflect that. Also, we need to address the source of the waste! Recycling costs are rising, plastic pollution from Oregon's packaging waste is mounting, public confusion is gumming up our recycling efforts, and producers continue to generate all this waste with no repercussions. These problems will only get worse if not addressed properly. We as community members, ratepayers, and consumers have been shouldering the burden too long---it is high time for the producers of this waste to pay for the clean up/recycling of what they produce. Also of particular importance are protecting workers in the recycling industry, ensuring equity in service for people in apartments and rural areas, and assuring responsible recycling from bin to new product. It is time for Oregon to modernize our recycling system so it is more effective, equitable, and sustainable