



February 21, 2021

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE, H-490
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 582

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee:

As part of the coalition of local governments who are supporting SB 582, we write today to underscore what we believe to be the critical importance of this step to modernize Oregon's recycling system. We have actively tracked and informed the work of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Recycling Steering Committee, and we join our partners to urge your support for SB 582.

For decades, Oregon has been known as a leader in waste reduction and recycling. In recent years the proliferation of materials, especially plastics, and impacts from global markets have reduced the effectiveness of our recycling systems. In Hillsboro and throughout Oregon, our recycling system has become antiquated, unable to adequately deal with the many materials that our community members and businesses now dispose as solid waste. Though most are technically recyclable, far too many materials do not find their way to a suitable recycling path. Our community members are confused and frustrated by the limitations of what is allowable in their curbside bin or commercial recycling container, and frustrated that many recyclable items are not getting recycled. It is why our community, through our foundational Hillsboro 2035 Community Plan, have set a priority to *"Support extended Producer Responsibility policies."*

SB 582 will do what is sorely needed: overhaul Oregon's recycling system to establish a state-wide recycling list, mandate 'truth in labeling' of materials, improve material sorting, and ensure that materials are sent to proper recycling markets. The bill will require active involvement from all the key players in the material life cycle, and enhance equitable outcomes in the system.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Brandom".

Peter Brandom
Senior Project Manager, Solid Waste and Sustainability
City of Hillsboro