

SB 582-1 Testimony

When I was in elementary school in the 1960's, one of my household chores was to "prepare" the recycling materials which meant, bundling newspapers, removing jar labels and flattening cans. At that time Portland had just **one** recycling station located at SW 12th and Montgomery which was run by Portland State University.

Recycling has evolved from the 60's and now we have the opportunity to vastly improve our recycle programs. There are problems with the current system such as many of the plastics go to the landfill since they're not recyclable despite have the recycling logo. SB 582-1 will help not only that issue but more such as health and safety etc.

One element that is especially important to me in the bill is making producers responsible for more of the costs of recycling their containers. It not only would be more equitable but also promote development of containers that are biodegradable such as the new toothpaste tubes now on the market and other innovations.

In Sweden there are laws that make the waste producers responsible for handling all costs related to the collection and recycling or disposing of their products. As a result households are able to recycle nearly 100% of their waste, appliance are built to last much longer and large items like carpets and rugs no longer go to the landfill. While this bill only requires producers pay for a portion of the costs, I would like a system similar to Sweden's be implemented in future recycling upgrades because it would motivates producers to make big changes.