



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
 Innovation. Collaboration. Practical Solutions.

February 23, 2021

Senator Lee Beyer, Chair
 Senate Energy and Environment Committee
 900 Court St. NE, HR B
 Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee:

The City of Portland strongly supports SB 582 with the -1 amendment that provides for significant improvements of Oregon’s recycling system by assigning greater responsibility to producers of packaging.

This bill is the result of a lengthy stakeholder process that had extensive discussions to lead to workable solutions for improving recycling in Oregon. The thoughtful collaboration developed recommendations that build on our successes, make needed advances, elevate equity, and incorporate broader life cycle impacts. It is critical to adopt these changes this legislative session and not delay this much needed upgrade to our recycling system.

Our residents and businesses have embraced recycling but recent developments have caused plastic pollution to dramatically increase, caused confusion for which materials are actually able to be recycled and brought big increases in costs to ratepayers. This bill establishes greater transparency from packaging producers that will lead to uniform collection, clearer messages to consumers on packaging and system-wide accountability for the materials collected through our recycling programs. Producer funding of key system infrastructure and public education improvements will reduce costs that have been borne by ratepayers.

Social and racial equity is a core value and this bill takes important steps forward for the state’s recycling system, including:

- Upgrades and expansions to recycling services for residents living in multifamily housing;
- Greater funding for multi-lingual and culturally appropriate recycling education;

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- Reductions from recycling system emissions from diesel equipment to protect residents that live near high traffic or industrial areas; and
- Increased wages and improved working conditions for recycling sector workers.

The City of Portland urges your support of SB 582 with the -1 amendment and to bring packaging producers into a more accountable role in Oregon's recycling system. This bill will significantly advance our recycling system to improve lives of Oregonians by lowering costs, protecting workers and reducing our environmental impact.

Thank you,

Bruce Walker

Bruce Walker
Waste Collections Manager
Recycling Steering Committee Member

