



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
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DATE: February 23, 2021
TO: Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment
RE: SB582, relating modernizing Oregon's recycling system

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee:

The Lane County Board of Commissioners would like to offer its support for SB 582, and the dash 2 amendment. We hope you will schedule this measure for a work session.

Here is what we considered as we evaluated this measure:

- As the operator of a regional landfill, and responsible under state law for recycling reporting, Lane County has long had legislative priority that supports the implementations of product stewardship frameworks. These programs shift “end of life” concerns onto the producer of the product such that the local government or private operator of a landfill is not in a role where they just have to accept all manner of toxic materials or unrecyclable materials at the expense of local ratepayers and/or local taxpayers. These are sometimes referred to as producer responsibility, or extended product stewardship and SB 582 establishes this work by framing up “producer responsibility organizations” and “producer responsibility programs”.
- As the state’s capacity for recycling programs has shifted from separating materials for collection at curbside to more common “commingled” recycling collection, we have seen the overall quality of recycled materials decrease. This reached an apex several years ago when the Pacific Rim nations that receive materials from our region began to draw new lines in the sand by rejecting the import of recycled materials. Contamination from commingled collection is common, and is a difficult problem to address at the local level, particularly when processing of these materials may occur hundreds of miles from the community where they were collected.
- We believe the producer responsibility program established by SB 582, -2 provides flexibility through continuous feedback loops and plan amendment procedures and provides a significant and appropriate role for local government that does not upend the authority over solid waste management that we now enjoy, while also providing local residents with the educational materials that have always been key to ensuring recycling literacy in our communities. We note that these materials must reflect the “diverse audiences” within our communities.
- As a coastal region we appreciate the carving out of programming for marine debris clean-up programs.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY ALEX CUYLER, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS MANAGER