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Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

Good afternoon Chair Beyer, Vice Chair Findley, and members of the committee. My name is **Anastasia Pyz** and I live in **Portland**. I fully support Senate Bills 14, 581, and 582-1 and urge you to levy all your power to support them as well.

In the early 1990s plastic lobbyists lobbied to *require* the recycling symbol be placed around the plastic identification code on all plastics in **38 states including Oregon**, despite knowing full well that most of these plastic polymers were **NOT** economically recyclable (it costs more money to recycle than it does to make new plastic). Because of this, most of the plastic in the country is just put into landfills where it **never** biodegrades and takes upwards of 500 years to break down into microplastics. Microplastics, by the way, have made their way to the deepest depths of the oceans (upwards of 2,000 ft below the surface) and thanks to cadaver inspection, have been discovered in almost every filtration organ in the human body (kidney, liver, lungs, etc).

Essentially, the plastic and petroleum industry have utterly misled the public about its product and inability to create a sustainable or recyclable solution, leading to a catastrophic amount of plastic pollution on our planet. This is the most insidious form of greenwashing and is a lie of the biggest scale that we must now grapple with as a human race, just like the damaging effects burning fossil fuels has had on our environment and climate. You, me and our families have been intentionally deceived by plastic producers for **over 3 decades** about the recyclability of plastics. Almost every piece of plastic you have ever used has ended up in the ocean or in a landfill somewhere in the world.

These bills would seek to right those wrongs committed by the petroleum and plastic industries and hold current producers of plastics accountable for their polluting and environmentally destructive products. We need accountability from these mass industries by imposing heavy penalties on plastic producers if they fail to comply with these laws. It is also not enough to simply fine and penalize companies for being caught doing the wrong thing, we must create a new vision for a world in which the *right* thing is set forth. The plastic stewardship program would do just that, pushing sustainable and innovative solutions to the plastic crisis to spring forth and requiring companies to be more intentional about their plastic waste. It is not enough to put the onus of creating a zero-waste lifestyle onto the individual consumer, as this is usually a costly and privileged choice to make and one that is still almost impossible to achieve fully, as plastics are pushed into nearly every sector of our consumable lives.

We absolutely *must* tackle this crisis and these bills are the first step to keeping the petroleum industry accountable for the lies they planted decades ago.

Thank you for your time,
Anastasia Pyz