

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

Please support HB 2574, which would allow Oregonians an ecological alternative to conventional burial. This legislation would offer us a natural disposition of remains (i.e., composting) by natural organic reduction (NOR), gently converting human remains into soil in an accelerated process. Nothing could be more responsible regarding our looming climate crisis.

And as our population continues to increase, we'll be running out of cemetery space too, not to mention that burial sites will be more and more expensive. Considering that the affordability of housing for the living seems to be an issue across the country, having the option to compost ourselves after death seems to be an ideal alternative to conventional mortuary practices.

Oregonians are looking for more sustainable death care options. We were one of the first states to adopt physician-assisted suicide, and it seems only fitting that we also be in the forefront of this environmentally friendly and sustainable death care option. Please support HB 2574.

Thank you for your consideration,
Laura M. Ohanian