

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

I, Rose “Kate” Stinson am pleased to offer my support for HB 2574. This legislation would allow a natural disposition of remains by natural organic reduction (NOR), gently converting human remains into soil in an accelerated process.

I learned about what we now call Natural Organic Reduction (NOR) in 1999, after a series of people close to me died. As my grief ebbed, my interest in bereavement remained including how we inter and mourn our loved ones. I became interested in the variety of ways our own and other cultures handled human remains and grew frustrated when options that aligned with my values were not available.

We humans are part of the natural world – sustained by it and sustain other life, if we allow it. (We inhale tree-oxygenated air, and trees suck the carbon dioxide we exhale.) We are made up of the same variety of nutrients, minerals, and carbon compounds as other living things. Yet when my friends and family members die, my options to burn or preserve them at great financial and ecological cost do not acknowledge this truth. When we can do so safely, it is biologically unfair, spiritually unholy, and sociologically nonsensical to sequester remains from the rest of the natural world when we die. We now have the means to basically compost ourselves safely and have every reason to do so.

Oregonians are looking for more sustainable death care options. HB 2574 would create an additional option for death care practice that is more environmentally-friendly and sustainable. For the above reasons, I ask for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Kate Stinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Rose Stinson

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