

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

I, Jane A Black, thank you for hearing my support for HB 2574, allowing Oregonians to choose natural organic reduction (NOR), an ecological means of converting human remains into rich, life-giving soil.

I have been waiting for this to be legalized in our state! There are not enough options to meet the public's desire for ecologically friendly death care. Green burial is wonderful, and is already available in some locations - but it's not enough. While I hope to have a full body burial in River View Cemetery here in Portland (a strong supporter of environmental death care), many people in Oregon do not have such an appealing option.

You will serve Oregonians well by encouraging more sustainable death care and be contributing to our state's commitment to addressing climate change. HB 2574 will add to death care practices that are ecologically sound and make sense for both urban and rural areas. In the city, space for green burial can be a barrier; it can also be cost prohibitive. In areas where there is plenty of land, there may not be enough people to support the operations of a green burial ground.

For the above reasons, I ask for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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