

Dear Chairperson Holvey, Representative Marsh, and Committee Members:

Like many Portlanders in their later years, my husband and I followed our children to Oregon 5 years ago. But this year, with the Covid-19 pandemic on our "doorstep", preferences regarding funeral and burial options has required more immediate thought. We have followed Katrina Spade and her team for perhaps 7-8 years as they developed their thoughts and created their design for ecologically sound, respectful, green recycling of human remains. In 2019, the organization which had grown around this idea sought legislative approval in Washington State to put their program into action, and it was signed into law that spring. Organic reduction (human composting) is something farmers have done with animals for centuries. And John & I have come to believe that it is the best environmentally sensitive option that circumvents the land use issues involved with burial and the energy use/air quality issues created by cremation. It is the option we want to use.

My husband and I are hoping that Recompose, or the idea of organic reduction of human remains for recycling into enrichment of other environments will become a possibility in Oregon before we need it. We understand that HB2574 would allow this. And we strongly urge you to support this legislation.