



PO BOX 1264
Tualatin, OR 97062
503-233-3056

www.oregonrecyclers.org

February 14, 2022

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

Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee:

The Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) is a 501(c)6 committed to supporting policies that promote high-quality recycling and composting, thoughtful consumption, and producer responsibility. Equity, community partnerships and community restoration are centered in our guiding principles because we believe the reuse, repair and recycling economy should benefit everyone, including communities of color. Our principles around equity and the environment are why *AOR supports HB 4077 and believes it is a critical piece of legislation in the 2022 legislative session.*

AOR is writing to support HB 4077 because we believe the Environmental Justice Task Force needs to expand its capacity as a Council in order to enhance its ability to serve the growing demands for environmental justice throughout our state. The current Environmental Justice Task Force has never had a real budget or designated staff person to support it which is why we believe this critical work should be elevated and fully supported.

The operation of garbage and recycling facilities generate environmental, health, economic and social impacts. While it's necessary to have a range of facilities to manage what we throw away, they are often located in communities that have been historically excluded from decisions about where the facilities go and that have the fewest resources to advocate for improvement or change. AOR believes the data-mapping created by HB 4077 would provide the greatly needed region-specific data and dedicated resources to continue bridging connections between state agencies and the public to raise concerns brought by environmental justice communities.

AOR believes HB 4077 is the type of policy we need to determine the scope of environmental burdens and impacts on Oregon's most vulnerable communities. Please pass HB 4077.

Sincerely,

Kristin Leichner
Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers

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