



February 17, 2022

1 West Main Street
Suite 401
Medford, OR 97501

To: Chair Smith Warner
Vice Chair Breese-Iverson
Vice Chair Fahey, and Members of the House Rules Committee

Re: **Support House Bill 4158**

HB 4158 provides an urgent short-term technical fix to Oregon's E-Cycles Program. The bill allows DEQ to change the projected goal of materials estimated to come into the program in 2022 and retain existing collection sites that are being dropped from the program on March 1, 2022.

I am the project coordinator for the Jackson County Recycling Partnership. We are a group represented by each city in Jackson County, the three Solid Waste Companies in the area, and the County itself. Our objective is to promote recycling, reuse, waste prevention, and composting through public education.

If the current collection sites are dropped from the E-Cycles Program an estimated 1 million pounds of electronic waste, banned from landfill disposal, will be displaced without a convenient location for customers to take these materials to be recycled. 600,000 pounds of that material will be displaced in Jackson County alone, as our local solid waste and recycling transfer station in White City, Rogue Transfer & Recycling (RTR), is one of the facilities being denied participation in the state E-Cycles program.

The 600,000 pounds normally accepted by Rogue Transfer Station will not just disappear – it will need to go somewhere. At best, it will be taken to smaller facilities with less capacity to safely handle and store that kind of increased volume. At worst, it is more likely to be hidden in trash loads, or illegally dumped, which both equate to the need for costly enforcement. Public education around the elimination of the most used collection site will be very challenging.

The proposed cuts to the program will also disproportionately impact rural Oregon communities. And in our case, dropping the most well utilized site in the Rogue Valley region is highly disruptive to our recycling system and destabilizes what has been a safe and environmentally sound way to manage, store, transport and recycle hazardous electronic materials.

Thank you for your consideration. **We urge your support for HB 4158**

Sincerely,

Denise Barnes

Denise Barnes
Project Coordinator
Jackson County Recycling Partnership