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February 21, 2022

House Committee on Rules
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 4158 – Support

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson, Fahey, 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. We believe the producers that manufacture and sell products to Oregonians should have a role in how products are managed at the end of their usable life. Equity is also centered in our guiding principles because we believe the reuse, repair and recycling economy should benefit everyone, including communities of color and rural areas and that is why *AOR supports HB 4158*.

A situation has arisen where some manufacturers have outperformed their e-waste collection goals as set under the law and some current E-Cycling collection sites have been dropped from the program as a result. An estimated 1 million pounds of displaced e-waste will still have to go somewhere and this situation will make it less convenient for many consumers and also increase the risk of harmful materials being improperly dumped as well. HB 4158 would address this situation by allowing DEQ to allow for more collection and keep these sites open.

The decision to drop current collection sites is disruptive to Oregon's recycling system. Many of these sites are located in more rural or coastal areas. If this is not resolved in the 2022 session, the dropping of collection sites will result in disproportionate impacts to rural communities in Oregon. It will also cause customer confusion as the cost of the program has already been paid for and they assume they can responsibly recycle products at the traditional sites.

Oregon E-cycles has been operating successfully for more than 10 years, but needs to be updated to address an urgent situation in Oregon. HB 4158 will provide an important short-term fix to allow DEQ to change the goal, retain the existing collection sites, and keep potentially harmful products from ending up in places they should not be. Please pass HB 4158 this session to address this urgent situation.

Sincerely,

Kristin Leichner
Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers

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