

Submitter: Mary Faith Bell
On Behalf Of: Tillamook County
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4158

Letter of Testimony in Support of HB4158

Date: February 21, 2022

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

From: Tillamook County Commissioner Mary Faith Bell

Re: Support House Bill 4158

As a Tillamook County Commissioner and liaison to the Tillamook County Solid Waste Department I implore you to support HB 4158. Not doing so would dismantle the successful e-waste recycling system we have built here in Tillamook, and displace an estimated 100,000 pounds of e-waste collected in Tillamook annually.

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.

Over the past decade, consumers in Tillamook County have been able to conveniently dispose of potentially hazardous e-waste materials through our three county transfer stations, located in North (Manzanita), central (Tillamook), and South (Pacific City) Tillamook County. The Goodwill in Tillamook also accepts e-waste at their store.

In recent years on average our transfer stations have collected 70 to 75 tons of e-waste each year, with an additional 5-10 tons being recycled through other means, such as at Goodwill, or sent directly to a recycling facility. Of that quantity, approximately two-thirds of it is collected at our central transfer station, in Tillamook, operated by Don G. Averill Recycling.

For reasons beyond our control, NCER, the operator of the State Contractor Program, has chosen to drop the Tillamook Transfer Station from its contracted partners in 2022, and MRM has indicated that they have "no intention" of taking on additional sites.

This means that even though Oregon consumers are paying for the E-CYCLE program each time they purchase a TV, computer, or other program materials, an estimated 100,000 pounds of e-waste is at risk of being displaced in the Tillamook area.

It is inconvenient and contrary to logic to send consumers wishing to recycle their e-waste away from the Tillamook Transfer Station, which is a full service recycling center, as well as home to the first permanent Household Hazardous Waste collection facility on the Oregon Coast – having collected over one million pounds of HHW from over 10,000 residents over the past ten years.

As was asked in a recent Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting: Where is the public benefit?

We cannot allow this to happen. I urge you to pass HB4158 so that this disservice to Oregon consumers can be avoided.

Sincerely,

Mary Faith Bell
Tillamook County Commissioner
Board Liaison to Tillamook County Solid Waste