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Date: February 21st, 2022

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

From: Laura Leebrick, Rogue Transfer & Recycling

Re: **Support House Bill 4158**

Rogue Transfer & Recycling (RTR), a solid waste and recycling transfer station in White City, has been collecting electronic waste (E-Waste) for recycling from the citizens of Jackson County since 2008. In 2010, Oregon enacted a landfill disposal ban on E-Waste (computers, electronics, laptops, and TV's). In 2020, RTR collected more E-Waste than all other collection sites in Jackson and Josephine counties combined. Clearly, RTR is recognized as a long-standing, convenient, safe and efficient location for the citizens of this region to access the Oregon E-Cycles program, which allows the public to drop off their E-Waste free of charge.

In November of 2021, RTR received 30 days' notice that they would no longer be allowed to participate in the statewide, manufacturer funded E-Cycles program, with no clear explanation. They soon found out that the state authorized contractor for the E-Cycles program wanted to cut costs for the upcoming year, so they arbitrarily chose a handful of collection sites (mostly in rural areas of the state) to deny participation in the program for 2022.

Without an authorized contractor or access to another outlet to recycle electronic materials as a part of the state E-Cycles program, Rogue Transfer, which accepts 75% of the electronic waste collected in Jackson County, will no longer be able to collect electronic waste free of charge from the public and will need to discontinue what has been the most effective and well-utilized collection site in the region.

Removing convenient collection sites in the hope of decreasing the amount of material collected to contain costs for the current year will not change the demand or need; instead, it will likely lead to customer frustration, unequal and inconsistent access to services, and undermine the credibility of Oregon's E-Cycles Program in Jackson County. And, given that the cost of this program has already been paid for as part of the consumer's purchase of the electronics, the failure to provide adequate disposal for discarded electronics does not make sense.

The 600,000+ pounds of displaced E-Waste RTR had expected to receive (based on actual 2021 tonnage data) from regional residents in 2022 will have to go somewhere – and at best, it will go to the remaining smaller collection sites which lack the capacity and manpower to handle such large increases safely and effectively. And at worst, the decrease in accessibility to convenient locations could present health and safety issues for haulers and landfills if customers instead choose to mix these materials with garbage, or worse yet, illegally dump it.

The bill (HB 4158) is a short-term technical legislative fix in 2022 to allow DEQ to change the goal and retain the existing collection sites.

We recognize that a more comprehensive set of changes may be needed to the E-Cycles program, and this technical fix will allow for time to pull stakeholders together to work on longer-term solutions in the 2023 session that will work to the greater benefit of all involved in the program – but in the meantime, we must maintain stability of the program on behalf of our citizens.

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