

Dahl and Dahl Inc.  
Toledo, Oregon 97391  
541-336-2932

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 and correct 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.

- If the current collection sites are dropped from the E-Cycles Program, an estimated 1 million pounds of electronic waste (things like computers, monitors, and TVs) will be displaced statewide, without a convenient and local location for customers to take these materials to be recycled.
- Locally, citizens in Lincoln County will be losing 2 collection sites – one in Toledo and one in Waldport. These sites are conveniently located to offer service to the citizens of rural and smaller cities in Lincoln County. Citizens in communities such as Siletz and Yachats will no longer have access to collection sites in Toledo and Waldport, meaning all 4 of these communities and the surrounding population will not have access to a local and convenient locations for recycling electronics. Both Oregon E-Cycles recycling locations that have been serving their communities for over 10 years.
- These citizens will now need to travel great distances, 30-60+ minutes one way, to recycle these items under the Oregon E-Cycles program. Dropping these existing collection sites will have a disproportionate negative impact on rural Oregon communities.
- Our coastal citizens have already paid for the electronics recycling that must, by law, be offered at convenient locations – they did that when they purchased the electronics. The program was legislatively designed to be fully funded by electronics manufacturers, and convenient to all Oregonians – losing these collection sites will not meet the requirements, nor the spirit, of the law.
- This is a critical health and safety issue. If citizens have less convenient or accessible options for materials that are considered hazardous, and prohibited from going to landfills, these items could be mixed with garbage, or worse - and a major issue every county is dealing with - be illegally dumped.
- Many of the E-Cycles items also contain lithium-ion batteries that can cause fires when placed in the garbage. If they are improperly disposed of, they could add to the existing problem of trailers loaded with garbage catching fire at our local solid waste and recycling collection sites. In Lincoln County alone, we had 3 locations that dealt with garbage trailer fires in 2021. We cannot afford an increase in this already alarming trend, and if citizens in our communities do not have convenient locations for recycling these products, this could be another unintended result.

- The decision to drop current collection sites is highly disruptive to Oregon's recycling system and destabilizes what has been a safe and environmentally sound way to manage, store, transport, and dispose of e-waste hazardous materials. Other smaller sites located around these communities in Lincoln County cannot absorb the additional 80,000 pounds of E-Waste that will be displaced if these collection sites are dropped.
- Participating collection sites are not making money off of this program—they are a part of the program as a public service to support Oregon's recycling system, and are the most convenient options to citizens of Lincoln County, Siletz, Toledo, Waldport and Yachats.
- Now is the time to pass HB 4158 – correct the E-Cycles Program collection goal so the existing sites can continue to offer safe, convenient service to their customers in rural Oregon.

Sincerely



Zack Dahl, President  
Dahl Companies