

FAR WEST RECYCLING

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Date: February 21, 2020

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

From: Far West Recycling

Re: **Support House Bill 4158**

Far West Recycling has been involved with the collection and recycling of electronic scrap (e-scrap) before the E-Cycles program began, and then came on board when the program started. In 2021, Far West Recycling collected more than 330,000 pounds of material that went into the Oregon E-Cycles program. Our involvement with this program is to provide support to consumers using Oregon's recycling system. We provide a location that conveniently allows customers to drop multiple materials for recycling, not just e-scrap. At the end of November 2021, we were notified that we, along with others, would be removed from the program December 31. Although it was extended to March 1, 2022, removal of these sites from this program will reduce the convenience for consumers wanting to properly recycle their e-scrap materials.

If the current collection sites are dropped from the E-Cycles Program it is estimated that nearly, 1 million pounds of electronic scrap (things like computers, monitors, and TVs) will be displaced, creating confusion and inconvenience for customers wanting to recycle the materials.

Simply dropping the current collection sites will not change the customer demand or volume of materials needing to be recycled—these materials will need to go somewhere potentially over burdening other locations not set up to handle a surge. It should be noted that the collection sites slated for removal are sites that operate under some type of solid waste permit or license, and are designed to safely receive, store, and ship this type of material in higher volumes. The decision to drop current collection sites is highly disruptive to Oregon's recycling system and destabilizes what has been an effective and safe way to manage e-scrap hazardous materials.

If customers have less convenient or accessible options for materials that are considered hazardous, and prohibited from going to landfills, the materials could be mixed with

other recycling, garbage, or illegally dumped creating health and safety issues for the public and our employees.

It was explained to us that the removal of the selected sites was a cost cutting measure. As the cost of this program has already been paid for as part of the consumer's purchase of the electronics, it seems confusing and should be unnecessary to make such cuts to the program.

HB 4158 provides a 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. This bill allows the program to run as expected by the public while long-term fixes can be contemplated.

Thank you for your consideration. **Far West Recycling urges your support for HB 4158.**