



February 21, 2022

House Rules Committee
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

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

League of Oregon Cities support HB 4158.

Many cities and their community members rely on the state-run responsible disposal of electronic waste through its recycling program (E-Cycles Program). The volumes of electronic waste collected in 2019, 2020, and 2021 exceeded expectations. Unfortunately, the work to change the goal numbers, contracts, and mechanics of the state electronic device recycling program has not been done, leaving existing collection sites in an untenable position.

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. These collection sites that will be phased out affect a number of mostly rural Oregon cities and their residents. If HB 4158 does not pass:

- An estimated 1 million pounds of electronic waste (things like computers, monitors, and TVs) will be displaced without a convenient location for customers to take these materials to be recycled when current collection sites are dropped from the E-Cycles Program.
- Customer demand and volume of materials needing to be recycled—these materials will need to go somewhere.
- A critical health and safety issue may present itself. If customers have less convenient or accessible options for these materials that are considered hazardous, and prohibited from going to landfills, could be mixed with garbage, or worse, illegally dumped.

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. Furthermore, the cost of this program has already been paid for as part of the consumer's purchase of the electronics. Participating collection sites do not generate revenue on the program—it is a public service to support Oregon's recycling system.

We recognize that a more comprehensive set of changes need to be made to the E-Cycles program. This technical fix will allow the time to pull stakeholders together to work on longer-term solutions for the 2023. In the meantime, we must maintain stability of the program on behalf of residents in cities large and small across the state.

We urge your support on HB 4158.

Respectfully,

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