

Submitter: Alex Truelove  
On Behalf Of: Biodegradable Products Institute  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure: SB543

February 14, 2023

## SB 543 – SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

Chair Sollman and members of the committee,

The Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) is North America's leading certifier of compostable products. We represent hundreds of companies making thousands of products, all of which are tested to ASTM standards developed over the years by leading experts to ensure they disintegrate and biodegrade along with the food waste they help transport.

BPI's certification also includes industry-first PFAS restrictions that were introduced in 2017, with terms for no intentional use that this bill mirrors. We also require a total organic fluorine test to ensure that no unintentional PFAS are present (a feature that states are also beginning to copy). Because of this, and the removal of the problematic and scientifically invalid section 5 directed towards compostable products, we're pleased to support this bill, contrary to our previous position, with one friendly amendment:

We ask that the task force in the amendment include either a composter that accepts compostable foodware or a representative of the compostable foodware industry. Managing foodware inherently means managing food waste, and we know that composting food waste is much better for the environment than landfilling, as it avoids GHG emissions and creates a valuable soil amendment. We also know that compostable foodware can help divert food waste in many applications and elsewhere have been identified as a preferred single-use alternative to reusable foodware for that reason. Given that, leaving out compost from a foodware discussion, especially when recyclers and trash haulers are included, doesn't make any sense. We hope you agree.

If anybody in the legislature seeks to replace what was previously section 5, we'd point to many successful examples across the world designed to effectively integrate compostable products—working with organizations to scale up field testing capabilities, hosting discussions to evaluate current ASTM standards. Oregon could also follow the examples set by neighboring states (CA, WA) to prohibit misleading and greenwashing claims and/or convene a group of stakeholder experts from across the compost industry.

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions.

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