



Feb. 15, 2023

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

FR: Derek Sangston, Oregon Business & Industry

RE: Opposition to SB 543, 544, and 545

Oregon Business & Industry (OBI) is a statewide association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries and from each of Oregon's 36 counties. In addition to being the statewide chamber of commerce, OBI is the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation. Our 1,600 member companies, more than 80% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians. Oregon's private sector businesses help drive a healthy, prosperous economy for the benefit of everyone.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 543, 544 and 545. These bills would impose additional and unnecessary burdens on businesses, increase consumer prices and expose businesses to increased liability. OBI opposes these bills.

OBI is concerned each bill would delegate broad authority to several administrative agencies and fail to account for the comprehensive waste reduction program Oregon passed only two years ago.

When the Legislature passed the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act in 2021, Oregon became one of four states to enact an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program. The goal of that program is to increase packaging recycling and reduce waste. Once enacted, the program, among other things, will:

1. Require producers of specified products (including packaging, plastic food ware and paper) to fund improvements to Oregon's recycling system so that recycling is increased statewide,
2. Impose fees on non-recyclable products to incentivize sustainable packaging in an effort to reduce waste, and
3. Establish specific plastic packaging and plastic food ware recycling target rates to both increase recycling and reduce waste.

OBI respectfully asks this committee to hold off on passing new programs addressing this issue until the Department of Environmental Quality finishes implementing one of the most comprehensive EPRs in the country. Passing additional programs like those described above could have the unintended consequence of distracting from and delaying a more effective solution to Oregon's waste problem.

Thank you for your consideration.

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