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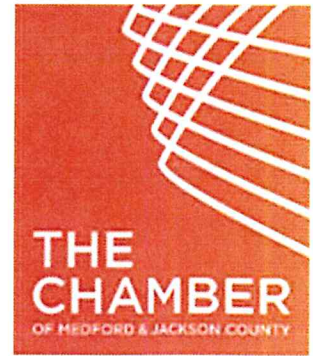
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March 2, 2023

Testimony in support of HB 3220 – 2 Amendment to Update Oregon’s E-Cycles Program



Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Levy and members of the House Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

I urge your support for the -2 Amendment to HB 3220. As the President and CEO of one of Oregon’s largest Chambers of Commerce, representing over 1200 business members in the Rogue Valley, the E-Cycles program is critically important to our members and our region.

Oregon’s E-Cycles Program is one of the nation’s first product stewardship programs for electronics recycling and it is our state’s oldest extended producer responsibility (EPR) program, operating since 2009. In 2010, DEQ enacted a ban on the landfill disposal of these products, making it illegal to dispose of these products in the trash or landfills.

In late 2021, concerns with the current structure of the program came to light when existing collection sites, mostly in rural locations, were notified that they would no longer be allowed to participate in the E-Cycles Program. Dropping the collections sites would have been highly disruptive to the program, resulting in an estimated 1 million pounds of displaced electronic waste with no place to go. It would hit our region particularly hard as a major population center in rural Oregon.

Even though there was a short-term solution negotiated in 2022, it was important to gather all interested parties to work towards a more permanent, and equitable solution. In July 2022, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) convened a stakeholder process to determine what changes need to be made to ensure stability, convenience, and equitable access to collection locations throughout Oregon where these electronic materials are safely managed. This process involved representative from local governments, the solid waste industry and the electronics manufacturing industry. Everyone involved in and impacted by this program was engaged and provided input into the solutions being proposed to stabilize the program and ensure its viability into the future.

The result of that effort offers several opportunities to address concerns in the original legislation, including:

- Increasing the types of electronic devices that are covered by the program, making it much easier for consumers to recycle additional items.
- Ensuring the stability and accountability of the program by increasing the number of collection sites, based on population density, and allows all permitted solid waste facilities to opt-in to the program. This is especially important in rural areas of the state.

As an organization dedicated to the success of the business community, this amendment offers another tool for businesses to handle and dispose of e-waste in a safe and appropriate manner. I urge your support of the -2 Amendment.

Sincerely,

Eli Matthews, IOM
President & CEO
The Chamber of Medford & Jackson County