



March 8, 2023

### **ORRA Urges Your Support for the -2 Amendment to HB 3220**

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Levy, Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Refuse and Refuse and Recycling Association, ORRA, is the statewide trade association representing solid waste management companies across Oregon. ORRA members collect, transport, and process most of Oregon's residential and commercial refuse and recyclables, as well as operate material recovery facilities and many of Oregon's municipal solid waste transfer stations, landfills, and compost facilities—from small family-owned companies to the largest waste management companies in the world.

Many of ORRA's members operate Oregon E-Cycles Program collection sites across the state in their role to support Oregon's solid waste infrastructure. Oregon's E-Cycles Program is one of the nation's first product stewardship programs for electronics recycling and Oregon's oldest extended producer responsibility program, operating since 2009.

In late 2021 we became aware of challenges within the current structure of the program when existing collection sites, mostly in rural locations, were notified that they would no longer be allowed to participate in the program. We were fast approaching the holidays and you can imagine the disruption this would've caused during a time where customers were purchasing new electronics and discarding older models. There would not have been ample time to notify the public of these changes. This disruption would have displaced an estimated 1 million pounds of electronic—to give you a visual that is roughly 80 semi-truck loads. Because these e-waste materials are illegal to dispose of in the trash or landfills, there were health and safety concerns that a lack of convenient and accessible locations to take these materials could lead to illegal dumping.

ORRA thanks Rep. Marsh for her leadership in the 2022 Legislative Session to reach a short-term solution to retain most of the collection sites that would have been dropped and for securing a commitment to bring stakeholders together to develop a long-term solution to bring back to the legislature in 2023.

In July 2022, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) through the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI), 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. The robust stakeholder process included representatives from the electronics industry, Producer Responsibility Organizations, local governments, recyclers, and

current and past collection site operators about how to improve the program. ORRA and our members actively participated in the process.

The -2 amendment to HB 3022 encompasses the following key provisions and changes to the program:

- Transition provisions and rulemaking to provide continuity for the program.
- Retain DEQ's oversight and enforcement role for the program.
- Stabilize the program by allowing willing DEQ-permitted solid waste facilities to opt-in, ensuring comparable levels of service as exists today across Oregon, providing convenient and equitable service throughout the state.
- Permitted solid waste collection sites will have priority to opt-in to the program. These established collection sites already provide safe, convenient, and accessible locations for customers to access the E-Cycles Program. Sites that operate under a solid waste permit are designed to safely receive, store, and ship this type of material in higher volumes.
- Notice provisions will ensure that permitted collection sites that opt into the program will not be dropped without assessing options to provide continuity to customers and ample notice to communicate program changes to the public.
- Collection sites will receive fair compensation to cover the costs of collecting, storing, managing, and transporting e-waste materials. These sites work closely with cities and counties to provide this public service to support Oregon's recycling system.

Moving forward, these proposed changes are intended to provide equitable access, convenience, and stability. ORRA thanks DEQ, PSI and the group of diverse stakeholders who came together to identify solutions to ensure continued success for Oregon's E-Cycles Program.

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