



PO BOX 1264

Tualatin, OR 97062

503-233-3056

www.oregonrecyclers.org

April 18, 2023

Senate Committee on Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 3220-A: Oregon E-Cycles - Support

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee,

The Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) is a 501(c)6 committed to supporting policies that promote high-quality recycling and composting, thoughtful consumption, and producer responsibility. We believe the producers that manufacture and sell products to Oregonians should have a role in how products are managed at the end of their usable life. Equity is also centered in our guiding principles because we believe the reuse, repair and recycling economy should benefit everyone, including communities of color and rural areas and that is why *AOR supports HB 3220-A*.

Oregon E-cycles has been operating successfully for more than 10 years, but needs to be modernized. Last year a situation arose where some manufacturers had outperformed their e-waste collection goals as set under the law and some E-Cycling collection sites were dropped from the program as a result. The decision to drop current collection sites was disruptive to Oregon's recycling system. As our population grows throughout the state, we believe sites should be added rather than taken away.

In addition to ensuring collection sites remain open, HB 3220-A will make other critical improvements to the program. The bill requires fair compensation to sites collecting and consolidating electronic devices plus any DEQ permitted transfer station is eligible to opt-in as a collection site. These two changes will help provide living wages to workers processing e-waste and increase the number of sites located through the state, making it more accessible to people living in both urban and rural areas. We are also excited about the provision that will require the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) to engage historically underserved communities to ensure the program is meeting their needs. Finally, the bill will also decrease waste and increase the reuse of electronics by requiring the Producer Responsibility Organization to coordinate activities with organizations that refurbish technology. Without these changes, the Oregon E-cycles will not be able to optimize the environmental and social benefits it was designed to produce.

AOR believes HB 3220-A (Oregon E-Cycles) is the type of policy we need to harness the environmental and economic value of electronic products by making recycling and re-use more

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convenient and accessible to everyone. For these reasons, the Association of Oregon Recyclers supports HB 3220-A and urges your support.

Sincerely,

Joel Schoening
Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers

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