



February 10, 2026

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and the Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Support for HB 4030 with -4 amendment

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Levy, and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy & Environment:

Amcor is the global leader in developing and producing responsible consumer packaging and dispensing solutions across a variety of materials for nutrition, health, beauty and wellness categories. We employ more than 27,000 employees in the United States, across more than 160 plants. This includes nearly 100 employees at our manufacturing facility in St. Helens, Oregon.

Sustainability is a core company value for Amcor. It connects directly to our purpose of elevating customers, shaping lives and protecting the future. Oregon's goals to increase recycling rates and promote the transition to a circular economy for packaging align with our own sustainability goals as well as those of many of our customers and suppliers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the -4 amendment sponsored by Representative Emerson Levy. The amendment seeks to **clarify that garbage bags are not a covered product under the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act.**

Amcor believes the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) inclusion of garbage bags to be an overly broad interpretation of the statute. There is a distinct difference between garbage bags and the other items on Oregon's list of covered products that are traditionally considered packaging. While the other items are designed and marketed for use in storage and moving applications, **garbage bags are intended for the disposal of waste. As such, garbage bags are not meant to be part of the commingled recycled stream or to achieve circularity because their very purpose is to contain waste not meant to be recycled and instead destined to landfill.**

Including garbage bags as "packaging" under Oregon's EPR program is inconsistent with the stated goal of the program to incentivize circularity of covered items. **Garbage bags are unlikely to achieve circularity because of their intended use and their likely landfill disposal.** Moreover, the Act's stated policy is to revise Oregon's recycling policies to address the "deterioration of natural systems by requiring producers of packaging and printing paper to finance and ensure environmentally sound stewardship of their products." Since garbage bags are meant to be used for waste disposal to landfill and not for recycling, and the statute does not otherwise address garbage bags, it seems clear to us that garbage bags should be outside of the scope of the Act. Other states with EPR programs recognize this principle, and **to Amcor's knowledge no other EPR state has included garbage bags in "covered products."**

Any garbage bag entering the recycling stream would only be a result of unintentional consumer disposal and should not have an overall impact on the EPR program. In fact, the **Circular Action Alliance (CAA) has estimated garbage bags represent .1% or less of the material that enters the recycling stream.**



Producers of garbage bags incur fees through Oregon's EPR program on not only the packaging of those bags, but also on the garbage bags themselves. That results in a substantial financial burden that will make it necessary for producers to pass those costs on to consumers. **EPR fees in Oregon represent ~20% of the total price of our garbage bags, which means the price of garbage bags will increase by ~20%, making it more costly for consumers in Oregon compared to other states.**

Amcor would like to thank DEQ for working with us to try and reach a resolution for this issue through the regulatory process. In July 2024, during the public comment period for the draft regulation, Amcor provided public comment suggesting that garbage bags should not be a covered material for the reasons stated above. However, DEQ maintained the inclusion of garbage bags as covered material in the final regulations. In October 2025, Amcor and other garbage bag producers filed an exemption request for garbage bags as part of the third rulemaking process. We were appreciative of DEQ's support for our request and their recommended exemption at the November 19, 2025 meeting of the Oregon Recycling System Advisory Council (ORSAC). Since then, feedback from ORSAC has created uncertainty as to whether this exemption will be granted. Because of this uncertainty and the reasons described above, we support this amendment, which would prevent the need for significant price increases for Oregonians for a product that was always designed and meant to be out-of-scope for the EPR program.

Thank you for your consideration I would be happy to answer any questions the committee has.

Sincerely,

Stephen Kittredge

Stephen Kittredge
Vice President Global Government Affairs
Amcor