

Submitter: Michael Brainard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4030

I am writing today in strong support of HB 4030, which provides a necessary exemption for packaging intended for direct food contact.

HB 4030 recognizes a simple but critical reality: food-contact packaging is not optional. It is a core component of food safety, public health, and equitable access to nutritious food across Oregon. These materials are engineered to meet strict federal standards, prevent contamination, and preserve freshness during transport, storage, and distribution. They are not interchangeable with general-purpose packaging, and in many cases, no safe or affordable alternatives currently exist.

Without the exemption provided in HB 4030, Oregon's food system—from grocery stores to small producers to food banks—would face significant and immediate disruption. Essential items such as dairy, produce, proteins, and shelf-stable goods rely on specialized packaging that ensures they remain safe to consume. Restricting these materials prematurely would increase costs, reduce availability, and disproportionately harm low-income families and rural communities who already face barriers to accessing healthy food.

HB 4030 strikes the right balance. It maintains Oregon's commitment to reducing unnecessary packaging waste while ensuring that food safety and food access are never compromised. The bill provides clarity for manufacturers and retailers, stability for food-assistance organizations, and protection for consumers who depend on safe, reliable packaging for the food they purchase or receive.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for HB 4030. Thank you for your time and for your commitment to policies that safeguard both public health and Oregon families.