



February 11, 2026

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

RE: HB 4030 – (Oppose) Exempting certain types of packaging from producer responsibility requirements for packaging, paper, and food serviceware

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

The City of Beaverton has been a strong advocate of the Oregon's Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (RMA), which brought a shared responsibility model to Oregon's recycling system. Although implementation is still in its early stages, it is critical that broad inclusion of packaging for the system to be successful and cost-effective. HB 4030 and its proposed amendments would shift the burden of managing these materials back onto Oregon communities and undermine the goals and principles of the RMA.

The RMA already has a process to exempt materials; the bill is unnecessary.

An open, transparent and expert-informed regulatory rulemaking process already exists within the RMA. This structure helps ensure consistency to consider potential exemptions to the law. Some materials are currently/already being considered for exclusion via this process which is a public process informed by subject matter experts. If there are concerns about the exemption process, the legislature might consider modifying the process – but should avoid overriding the standardized exemption process.

The -6 Amendment is very concerning; it would effectively suspend the RMA.

If DEQ is prohibited from enforcing provisions of the law against producers, it would effectively suspend the law. Local governments, service providers, recycling processors and others would need to stop all implementation efforts due to lack of funding. For many of these entities, investments and system improvements have already begun. Halting this process could shift the cost burden back onto local governments and ratepayers.

Packaging exemptions would increase costs for Oregonians and producers still in the program.

The proposed exemptions in HB 4030 and the various amendments would increase costs on communities and create free-riders who are not paying their shared responsibility portion of the costs of managing materials. The practical effect of these amendments would be to arbitrarily subsidize these packages at the cost of others.

The exemptions proposed in HB 4030 and its potential amendments would create a situation where some like-materials are exempt and some are included.

For example, clamshell' packages used for berries use the same plastic used for tomatoes, leafy greens, baked goods, and many non-food products. Exempting only some of this type of packaging would create significant operational challenges and confusion for the public.

Small producers are exempt from paying fees

To avoid undue burden on small businesses, small producers are already exempt from paying fees under the RMA. Small producers include non-profit organizations, producers with revenue under \$5 million per year, and producers selling less than one metric ton of packaging in Oregon per year.

RMA producer fees are not duplicative

Producer fees help cover the cost of properly sorting and marketing recyclable packaging. Those fees are not duplicative with the cost to purchase recycled content materials. Investments in collecting and sorting at recycling facilities can have the effect of providing a cleaner, lower-cost feedstock.

Exemptions reduce incentives for reduced environmental impact of packaging.

The RMA was designed to incentivize producers to make better, less impactful packaging choices. Limiting exemptions helps ensure this incentive exists. Producer fees are lower for materials that are less costly to manage at end-of-life or have a lower environmental impact.

The proposed producer fees exemptions risks undermining the effectiveness of the RMA. They shift costs unfairly to the producers and consumers of other packaged food and goods and undermine Oregon's effort to make recycling systems consistent and trustworthy. For these reasons, the City of Beaverton opposes HB 4030 and proposed amendments -1, -4, -5, -6 and -9.

We respectfully urge that you allow the RMA to be implemented as intended.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Haruyama,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Haruyama', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

City Manager
City of Beaverton