

Date:	February 11, 2026
To:	Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, Members of the Climate, Energy & Environment Committee
From:	Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager Tim Dooley
Subject:	HB 4030 - Oppose

The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) opposes HB 4030 and the proposed -1, -4, -5, -6, and -9 amendments. Oregon’s county governments manage the solid waste and recycling system in unincorporated areas and AOC worked extensively with DEQ, CAA, and our franchised haulers over the last year to successfully implement the Recycling Modernization Act (RMA). The purpose of the RMA is to divert more of the waste stream from landfills into our recycling and reuse system. HB 4030 would begin to unravel a system that has only just started.

The Legislative intent for our recycling system cannot be clearer.

“It is in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare of the people of Oregon to reduce the amount of domestic solid waste being generated in Oregon in order to extend the useful life of existing domestic solid waste disposal sites and to reduce the environmental risks associated with receiving waste generated outside Oregon at those sites.” (ORS 459A.105).

HB 4030 and the proposed amendments are in direct opposition to the how the Legislature asks Oregonians to manage our solid waste, by poking holes into a system that is less than a year old. The RMA has rulemaking processes in place to change which materials are subject to the producer responsibility program, and to do so in a transparent manner that ensures all opinions are heard. The Legislature, by picking and choosing materials in statute, rather than rule, short-circuits this process, and obviates the need for rulemaking in the first place.

Counties are particularly opposed to the -6 amendment, which would halt the RMA in its tracks. Counties and our franchised waste haulers made specific financial plans and

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capital expenditures based upon reimbursements agreed to by CAA in the system expansion plan. Pausing further collection of RMA fees would suspend reimbursement, which is problematic for haulers who have ordered equipment, such as new trucks. If they are unable to be reimbursed by CAA, it is likely they will ask for ratepayers to pick up the tab for these purchases.

Counties recognize that the ongoing litigation over the RMA presents a potential problem to the integrity of the system. Rather than abandoning the RMA wholesale, as HB 4030 and the -6 contemplate, counties would rather let the court process play out and have a large table to solve these issues in the interim instead of doing substantial policy making in the short session.

Counties ask that you oppose HB 4030 and its proposed amendments.