



February 12, 2026

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR

RE: House Bill 4030 - Concerns about the base bill and -1, -4, -5, and -6, amendments shifting costs

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

On behalf of the League of Oregon Cities (LOC), a member organization representing all 241 cities in Oregon, we write in opposition to HB 4030 as introduced, as well as the -1, 4, -5, and -6 amendments and the proposed amendments; all of which undermine the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (RMA) (SB 582, 2021) and bypass the deliberate, technical process the Legislature established in 2021.

The LOC supported the Recycling Modernization Act (SB 582, 2021) with a strong coalition because it addressed real and growing challenges facing local recycling systems, including increasingly complex packaging, rising processing costs, and confusion among residents about what belongs in recycling. Local governments helped develop that legislation to modernize Oregon's recycling system, establish producer responsibility, and create a consistent statewide framework grounded in technical evaluation and system-wide impacts.

House Bill 4030 and the -1, 4, -5, and -6 amendments would shift key exemption and enforcement decisions from the established rulemaking structure into statute. These determinations require technical evaluation of collection, processing, and recycling system impacts. This established rulemaking includes cities and is expert driven. Furthermore, the LOC is particularly concerned given recent legal developments affecting implementation of The Recycling Modernization Act. A federal court has already issued a preliminary injunction temporarily limiting enforcement for a subset of producers pending a trial this summer. In that context, additional statutory carve-outs or structural changes risk compounding uncertainty and narrowing the consistent framework local governments rely on to plan services, manage contracts, and provide clear guidance to residents.

Costs Do Not Disappear For cities, the costs of managing materials do not go away simply because statutory exemptions are created or enforcement is limited. Collection, processing, contamination management, and public education responsibilities remain. **When producer responsibility is reduced or paused, those costs do not vanish -**

they shift to local governments and the ratepayers we serve. Predictable cost-sharing and system stability were core reasons LOC supported adoption of the RMA.

The RMA was intentionally structured so that implementation decisions would be informed by data, technical expertise, and stakeholder engagement through an administrative process. LOC continues to support that model. At the same time, strong implementation depends on transparency, clarity, and timely guidance from state agencies, and we encourage continued collaboration and accountability across all partners responsible for carrying out the law.

LOC remains committed to working with legislators, DEQ, producers, and service providers to ensure Oregon's recycling system functions effectively for communities statewide. **Our cities serve as an implementation partner with the state, and effective partnerships require clear expectations, stable funding, and shared commitment to workable solutions.** In the current fiscal environment, including uncertainty around federal funding, **our members must have adequate and reliable resources to implement state policies effectively at the local level.**

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to reject HB 4030 and the -1, -4, -5, and -6, amendments, and allow the Recycling Modernization Act to proceed as intended.

Respectfully,

Michael Martin, Lobbyist