

**Testimony of Randy Tucker, Legislative Affairs Manager
In Opposition to House Bill 4093
House Committee on Energy and Environment
February 6, 2020**



Chair Power and Members of the Committee:

Metro is the regional government of the Portland metropolitan area, with major responsibilities for managing the region's solid waste and providing opportunities for recycling and waste reduction. Those responsibilities include regulating facilities accepting garbage, recycling, food scraps, yard debris and other solid waste generated from the region.

HB 4093 broadly expands what qualifies as a "wood waste residue" and is thus given an exemption from solid waste and recycling statutes, including not being defined as a "solid waste." The expanded definition is vague, subjective and could lead to unintended adverse environmental consequences. Other terms in the legislation, including "marketable," are also undefined.

A generator could accumulate a large amount of wood waste in the speculative hope that at some point it might have some marketable value. We have seen the problems that occur when that has been allowed to happen, including fires, pest infestations and polluted runoff. Public authorities need to be able to effectively regulate these types of activities without having to debate whether the material in question is a solid waste. If wood can be quickly sold and used as a fuel or for other types of recovery, then the material would avoid the definitional squabble anyway.

HB 4093 is a poorly considered piece of legislation and we urge you not to move it forward. Metro would be glad to engage in discussions with other stakeholders about the issues that caused this legislation to be brought forward.

Thank you very much for considering these comments.