

To Whom it May Concern:

The Corvallis City Legislative Committee endorses SB 582, with the -1 amendment.

We find that the provisions of this bill align with the Corvallis 2040 Vision and the Corvallis Climate Action Plan.

According to our Corvallis 2040 Vision: Corvallis is an environmentally sustainable city, with broad community awareness and a climate action plan that addresses the many impacts of climate change.

The Corvallis Climate Action Plan calls for an “increase purchasing of materials containing recycled material content, that have reduced packaging, and that can be returned to the manufacturer for remanufacturing, reuse, or full recycling” as well as a general increase in the amount of material recycled and recovered from the waste stream.

This bill, when it becomes law, will support both of these vision documents.

First, according to operators of Lane County’s regional landfill managers, “these programs shift ‘end of life’ concerns onto the producer of the product such that the local government or private operator of a landfill is not in a role where they just have to accept all manner of toxic materials or unrecyclable materials at the expense of local ratepayers and/or local taxpayers.” This will save money and precious landfill space, as well as protect the local environment.

Also, the Bend Environmental Center, in testimony to the legislature, says that “the bill requires producers to take responsibility for the impact of their products...Oregonians work hard to take care of our environment--upstream solutions like Extended Producer Responsibility will make our efforts stronger.” With Extended Producer Responsibility, when consumers in the EU purchase a product, they know what will happen to it when it reaches the end of its useful life-- it will be recycled, not thrown away. Oregonians will benefit from this same cradle to cradle policy.

Finally, truth in labeling will reduce confusion and contamination at the source--our own recycling bins. Who has not wondered “can I recycle this,” turned the container over, peered at the marks on the bottom, and then consulted the chart on the fridge to see if the garbage company is taking that particular number at this time? We all know that contamination, or wish-cycling, helped bring down the recycling market in 2018 and is still a problem today. This bill, which requires accurate labeling of all products, will reduce, if not eliminate, the confusion.

This bill, once law, will shift concerns about the final resting place of an object from consumer to producer, require upstream solutions to packaging issues, and, most importantly, clear up confusion about what can and cannot be recycled in the State of Oregon.

Corvallis City Legislative Committee

Biff Traber, Mayor
Charlyn Ellis, Councilor Ward 5
Ed Junkins, Councilor Ward 8
Hyatt Lytle, Councilor Ward 3
Gabe Shepherd, Councilor Ward 4