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www.oregonrecyclers.org

April 8, 2021

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

Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

The Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) is a not-for-profit trade association committed to supporting policies that ensure the materials that are collected for recycling are clean and marketable. We believe the producers that manufacture and sell products to Oregonians should have a role in how products are managed at the end of their usable life, which is why *AOR is urging you to pass the Plastic Pollution & Recycling Modernization Act (SB 582) with the -9 amendment.*

Modernizing Oregon's recycling system has been a collaborative effort from the beginning. AOR participated in the Recycling Steering Committee (RSC) process convened by DEQ and supported the consensus agreement this bill is based on. We believe the bill embodies the spirit and intention of the shared responsibility model recommended by the RSC.

AOR has also been involved in the discussions and negotiations that have resulted in creating an implementable bill that more recycling system stakeholders can support. AOR supports the -9 amendment and believes they are responsive to recent stakeholder feedback while shifting to a shared responsibility model, prioritizing responsible recycling, and modernizing Oregon's recycling system in order to protect human health and the environment.

With the -9 amendments, the Recycling Modernization Act still contains the most important components AOR believes are necessary to strengthen and stabilize our recycling system. Including better access and more opportunities to recycle, especially for people who live in apartments and rural communities, while protecting ratepayers from the increased costs of making those improvements. The bill will also establish a consistent statewide list and provide for necessary processing facility upgrades while improving health, safety and pay throughout all aspects of the system.

AOR feels that the Recycling Modernization Act is a strong step in the right direction and -9 amendments make it even more practical and implementable. We look forward to working with

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all of our partners to ensure that Oregon's recycling system is modernized, that meaningful goals are established, and accountability standards for contamination reduction are implemented. AOR urges you to pass, SB 582, the Plastic Pollution & Recycling Modernization Act with the -9 amendments in order to create a more resilient recycling system.

Sincerely,

Kristin Leichner

Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers

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