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April 12, 2021

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 5516, Pop 131 – Support

Co-Chair Taylor, Co-Chair Reardon 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. Equity and community partnerships are also centered in our guiding principles because we believe everyone should have access to recycling opportunities. *Our principles around the environment and equity are why AOR supports the Department of Environmental Quality's Land Quality Policy Option Package 131.*

Policy Option Package 131 will provide the resources DEQ needs to modernize Oregon's recycling system and ensure its resilient overtime. The package will also improve access and opportunities to recycling, especially for people who live in apartments and rural communities. We believe the producers of printed paper and packaging should have a role in how their products are managed at the end of their usable life and share responsibility for protecting ratepayers from the increased costs of making system improvements.

The new positions created through Policy Option Package 131 will focus producer responsibility programs, increasing equity outcomes within the system, processing facility certification and contamination education programs. AOR is committed to achieving a system of sustainable materials management and supports this policy option package as critical next step. AOR supports Policy Option Package 131 and urges your support.

Sincerely,

Rosalynn Greene  
Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers Legislative Committee

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