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April 20, 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 committed to supporting policies that reduce the negative climate impacts associated with the manufacturing and consumption of products. We also believe in equity and expanding economic opportunities for local communities. Our principles around jobs and the environment are why *AOR supports HB 2395*.

The passing of HB 2395 would amend the single-use checkout bag prohibition definition of “recycled paper checkout bag” to include bags that contain non-wood renewable fiber. AOR believes expanding the definition to include the use of non-wood derived feedstock for paper bags, as long as those products have a lower environmental impact than the products they are meant to replace the use of, would create opportunities for sustainable design and innovation. Paper does not always need to come from trees and using other local materials could create jobs and take the pressure off Oregon’s forests.

AOR believes the change made by HB 2395 aligns with the original intent of the policy which was to reduce waste and support a more sustainable Oregon. *We urge you to vote yes and move HB 2395 forward.*

Sincerely,

Kristin Leichner
Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers

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