

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

I, Sophia Lui am pleased to offer my support for HB 2574.

I believe that allowing processes such as natural organic reduction in the state of Oregon is one step in moving towards a sustainable death care industry. When I die, I hope to be returned back to the earth to nourish the place that once took care of me. I am a recent graduate from the University of Oregon, and for my final comprehensive project, I studied and explored alternatives to traditional death care practices (cremation and traditional burial) in cemeteries of the United States. Many people opt for traditional burial and cremation, which oftentimes will include embalming-- essentially pumping one's body with formaldehyde to delay decomposition. I believe that these traditional practices are wasteful and harmful, as cremation contributes to fossil fuels, and burial includes burying many resources into the ground, all to delay the process of decomposition. People need more death care options-- I believe that allowing natural organic reduction as an option for people will encourage more to educate themselves about the harmful effects of our traditional ways of handling death. Natural organic reduction is a kind and gentle way to give back to the earth and environment. We are currently seeing the impacts of not properly caring for the earth; I believe that now is the time to take as much action as we can to support and advocate for change to better the environment.

I ask for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Sophia Lui

Portland, OR.
Multnomah County