

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

I, Donna Gillenardo-Goudreau am pleased to offer my support for HB 2574.

I work with a green energy company that supports energy efficiency measures in Oregon. Therefore, I have a deep desire for reducing carbon emissions and driving green options in every area of life. This includes the funeral industry. Oregonians need access to greener ways of burial. Retorts (traditional cremation machines) take up the same amount of energy as two tanks of gas or 573 pounds of carbon dioxide per body. Water cremation (Alkaline hydrolysis) uses 10% of the energy traditional cremation does and does not put mercury (from the breakdown of fillings) into Oregon air. Additionally, every person who chooses natural organic reduction over conventional burial or cremation prevents one metric ton of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere. Working in the energy industry has also shown me how much interest there is in these alternative methods of disposition. Many of my family and friends, as well as myself, want to pursue either alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction. By approving this measure, Oregonians will be able to breathe easier knowing they can take measures to protect our planet even after they die. In conclusion, Oregon is a leader in taking measures to prevent global warming. I urge the Chair and the Committee to continue this path and allow these eco-friendly methods to be legalized in Oregon. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Donna Gillenardo-Goudreau
Portland
Multnomah County