

April 9, 2021

Co-Chair Lew Frederick
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Susan McLain
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-477
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Mr. Frederick and Ms. McLain:

I am writing to request the Oregon Legislature's Joint Committee on Ways and Means support full funding for the important statewide program **Oregon Consensus**, funded as part of the dispute resolution services allocation. As a member of the Oregon DEQ's Recycling Steering Committee, facilitated by Oregon Consensus, I have experienced firsthand the benefit this program provides in helping to support community-based problem solving.

The Recycling Steering Committee, a diverse group of stakeholders representing the breadth and depth of Oregon's recycling system, was tasked with modernizing the state's recycling system in the immediate aftermath of the most far-reaching crisis it has faced in its decades long history. The process took two and a half years, and the final (and most difficult) phase occurred during the first 6 months of the pandemic. Throughout the process, the Oregon Consensus team remained flexible, resilient and professional – and they were instrumental in helping guide us to a successful conclusion. We could not have done it without them.

The Oregon Consensus program provides very distinct and critical service to communities across the State in reaching agreement on contentious issues and supporting implementation of sustainable solutions. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and hope it will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,

Laura Leebrick

Rogue Disposal & Recycling
Medford, Oregon

CC: Senator Michael Dembrow
Sen. Chuck Thomsen

Representative Teresa Alonso Leon

Rep. Bobby Levy

Rep. E. Werner Reschke

Rep. Ricki Ruiz