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Chair Marsh and members of the committee,

My name is Sal Peralta. I am testifying today on behalf of Zero Waste Oregon, a public-interest coalition of organizations dedicated to reducing waste going to Oregon landfills. Our parent organization, Zero Waste McMinnville, developed local policies and practices that have contributed to a 90 percent reduction in waste materials going to landfills from fairs and festivals in McMinnville, and was a pioneer in encouraging the adoption of the underlying legislation that this bill seeks to amend.

**It is unclear that there will be a net environmental or clear economic benefit in terms of new jobs created by the passage of this bill.** From the language related to non-wood products, it would appear that the non-wood materials being invited in the legislation are original source materials rather than post-industrial waste.

If that is the case, we would encourage your committee to take a hard look at the cost-benefit of the policy. **While hemp is billed as an alternative that will help fight climate change, the data are less clear. Post industrial waste from hemp is a driver in California's failure to hit climate and waste reduction goals.**<sup>1</sup>

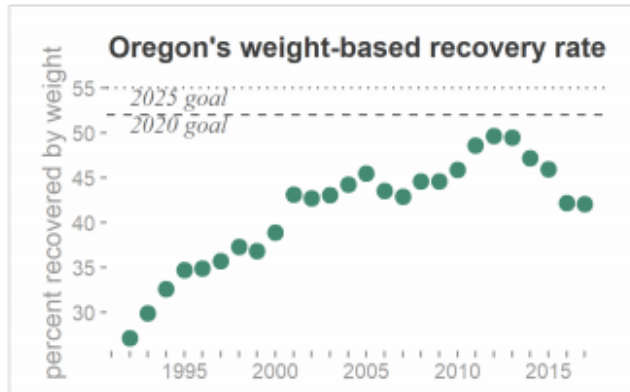
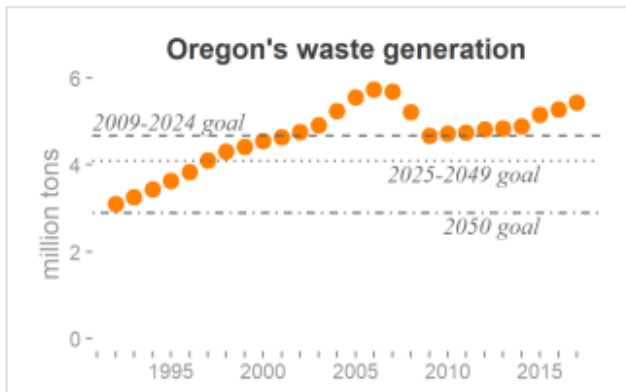
In general, public policies that modify or reduce recycled content in favor of non-recycled material, including bamboo or hemp, may benefit manufacturers but unless there is specific data showing that it reduces materials going to landfills or uses less energy than other materials to manufacture, an environmental benefit should not be assumed.

As this bill reduces post-recycled paper content, we would like to call your committee's attention to is the fact that landfilling of paper material is one of the single biggest drivers of the climate impact of landfills in Oregon, that Oregon's landfills comprise 6 of the 30 largest industrial emitters of greenhouse gases in the state; and the increase in paper and other plant materials going to Oregon landfills one of the main reasons why Oregon has not succeeded in hitting its waste reduction goals.

The charts at the top of the next page show how far off Oregon is from achieving the waste generation and waste recovery goals established by the legislature in 2012

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<sup>1</sup> <https://companyweek.com/article/industry-report-the-state-of-hemp-and-cannabis-waste>



These charts show trends in waste generation and recovery in relation to the Oregon's long-term goals for reducing generation and increasing recovery (Oregon Revised Statute 459A.010).

While this has largely been attributed to the Chinese National Sword in 2019, the reality is that most of the data we have predates that occurrence.

- **Oregon's problem with recycling predates the 2018 disruption in international recycling markets.**

The state's recycling levels in 2017, prior to the dropoff in international recycling, were lower than they were in 2001.

This drop in recycling is largely due to a loss of domestic recycling capacity, especially for pulp and paper materials.

Oregon State Recovered Tons and Recovery Rates

Year	Tons Recovered	Tons Disposed	Calculated Rate <sup>2</sup>
1992	839,679	2,263,099	27.1
1993	974,685	2,280,513	29.9
1994	1,118,912	2,312,669	32.6
1995	1,257,204	2,362,146	34.7
1996	1,338,259	2,497,170	34.9
1997	1,462,114	2,633,017	35.7
1998	1,604,985	2,695,903	37.3
1999	1,626,271	2,788,699	36.8
2000	1,765,817	2,778,463	38.9
2001	1,999,085	2,635,072	43.1
2002	2,029,261	2,723,365	42.7
2003	2,116,880	2,796,787	43.1
2004	2,317,064	2,923,462	44.2
2005	2,523,367	3,026,457	45.5
2006	2,494,050	3,235,828	43.5
2007	2,437,569	3,248,126	42.9
2008	2,326,146	2,890,503	44.6
2009	2,082,631	2,586,721	44.6
2010	2,163,957	2,523,808	46.2
2011	2,306,124	2,437,767	48.6
2012	2,391,490	2,424,833	49.7
2013	2,390,859 <sup>1</sup>	2,513,404 <sup>1</sup>	48.8 <sup>1</sup>
2014	2,307,269 <sup>1</sup>	2,634,653 <sup>1</sup>	46.7 <sup>1</sup>
2015	2,369,080 <sup>1</sup>	2,784,467 <sup>1</sup>	46.0 <sup>1</sup>
2016	2,225,943 <sup>1</sup>	3,050,432	42.2 <sup>1</sup>
2017	2,327,428 <sup>1</sup>	3,207,448 <sup>1</sup>	42.1 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> These tonnage figures are corrected from earlier published values.

We provide that information primarily as context as you consider environmental policies going forward.

We believe there is also an opportunity for alignment between Democratic and Republican coalition partners on reducing paper and plant materials to landfills. For example TimberUnity has highlighted those priorities as a policy goal for addressing Climate Change.

We urge the legislature to tread carefully in this area, and to generally only take action when the proposed policy enhances rather than undermines the goal of solid waste reduction in Oregon.

Respectfully,

Sal Peralta  
Policy Director, Zero Waste Oregon

<sup>2</sup><https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/2017mrwgrates.pdf>