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Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Beyer, Vice Chair Findley and Members of the Committee

The Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) is a not-for-profit trade association committed to supporting policies that ensure the materials that are collected for recycling are clean and marketable. We believe the producers that manufacture and sell products to Oregonians should have a role in how products are managed at the end of their usable life. While AOR believes strongly in this type of policy, widely known as Truth in Labeling (TIL), we feel it would be better for Oregonians to include TIL as part of a more comprehensive policy like those found in SB 582-1 or HB 2065.

If passed, SB 581 would prohibit the sale of products that make deceptive or misleading claims about the recyclability of items sold in Oregon. This type of policy holds producers to standards that aim to minimize confusion about the recyclability of a product. This includes removing a current requirement that new plastics must have three chasing arrows. It is common for consumers to believe the symbol means a product is recyclable when its purpose is to convey what type of plastic the product is made out of.

AOR knows consumers are confused about what is recyclable in Oregon and policies like SB 581 are needed to ensure our system collects clean material that can be used to make new products. However, the laws used to govern our recycling system were created over 30 years ago and we believe the challenges our industry is facing require a more comprehensive strategy. Our principles around the environment and producer responsibility are why AOR generally supports SB 581, but is urging you to pass HB 2065 or SB 582 with the -1 amendments

Sincerely,

Kristin Leichner

Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers

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