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February 23, 2021

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. Equity and community partnerships are also centered in our guiding principles because we believe everyone should have access to recycling opportunities, including communities of color and rural areas. *Our principles around the environment, producer responsibility and equity are why AOR is urging you to pass SB 582 with the -1 amendment or HB 2065.*

AOR participated in the RSC (Recycling Steering Committee) process convened by DEQ and supported the consensus agreement this bill is based on. We believe the bill embodies the spirit and intention of the shared responsibility model recommended by the RSC. AOR recognizes that there are other product stewardship bills at the Oregon legislature this session such as SB 14. SB 14 would address plastic packaging only, and in order to modernize the entire recycling system, AOR supports the more comprehensive approach in SB 582-1.

AOR endorses SB 582-1/HB 2065 because it will establish a consistent and convenient recycling system statewide and provide for necessary processing facility upgrades. The bill will also increase recycling system transparency, by ensuring our recyclables are sent to responsible end markets that have the infrastructure needed to manage the materials. SB 582-1/HB 2065 will require producers to pay for many of these necessary improvements and help ensure recycling is successful and more resilient over time.

Improving our waste and recycling system and delivering on the promises our industry has made to ratepayers and the public will require a willingness to try new things. AOR feels SB 582-1/HB 2065 is a strong step in the right direction. We look forward to working with all of our partners to ensure that Oregon's recycling system is modernized and continues to be

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considered a leader for many decades to come. We believe the most important components of SB582-1 include:

- Addressing public confusion regarding what is and is not recyclable by establishing a uniform statewide recycling collection list and creating stringent truth in labeling requirements.
- Establishing meaningful goals and accountability standards for contamination reduction in all sectors of the recycling system
- Improving access and opportunities to recycling, especially for people who live in apartments and rural communities, while protecting ratepayers from the increased costs of making those improvements.
- Improving worker health, safety and pay throughout all aspects of the system
- Creating a holistic approach to modernizing Oregon's recycling system by reducing the life cycle impacts of products through eco modulation of producer fees, waste reduction, and litter prevention and management.
- Improving worker health, safety and pay throughout all aspects of the system

In closing, the AOR Board would like to acknowledge the dedicated DEQ staff who led and provided support for the Recycling Steering Committee process. We would also like to share our appreciation for Oregon Consensus and the professionalism they demonstrated through strong meeting facilitation. We would also like to extend thanks to the Recycling Steering Committee members who stayed engaged from start to finish. The 2+ year consensus process was a huge investment for everyone involved and would not have been successful without DEQ's steadfast leadership and commitment of so many of our dedicated partners.

Sincerely,

Kristin Leichner

Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers

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