

February 25, 2021

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Senator Lee Beyer, Chair
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation. The City of Gresham strongly supports SB 582 with the -1 amendment. Action is urgently needed to improve Oregon’s recycling system.

The City of Gresham provides recycling collection services and education to ensure we meet the Oregon Opportunity to Recycle Act. Many of the materials being produced and collected in our program are difficult and expensive to recycle. These materials have also changed over time making it more complicated for the public to understand what should go in the recycling bin. Producers have the greatest ability to make changes in the design of their products to reduce this confusion that is causing contamination in our system. Bringing producers into the system will provide the necessary resources to modernize our recycling system and oversight to ensure materials are sent to responsible recycling markets, protecting our environment.

Our community members and businesses have seen increased costs for recycling, increased pollution and litter, and inequities for both users and workers in the system. SB 582 and the -1 amendment will help our rate payers by having producers be a key partner in providing resources to modernize our recycling facilities, support contamination reduction, improve multifamily access to services, and support living wages. The City supports the investment towards more culturally responsive educational resources to diverse audiences.

The City of Gresham strongly supports SB 582 and -1 amendment that provides for significant improvement to Oregon’s recycling system while enhancing equity, lowering costs, establishing a state-side recycling list, mandate “truth in labeling” of materials, protecting workers and responsible management of products collected for recycling.

Thank you for considering this bill.

Sincerely,



Brian Monberg
Government Affairs Manager