

February 26, 2021

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

HB 2574 has my full and enthusiastic support. This legislation would allow a natural disposition of remains by natural organic reduction (NOR), gently converting human remains into soil in an accelerated process.

Cremation is not an environmentally sound practice. It releases polluting chemicals into the atmosphere, including carbon monoxide, fine soot, sulfur dioxide, heavy metals, and mercury emissions from dental fillings, which are particularly concerning, especially now when we are facing a catastrophic climate crises.

In addition, taking up arable land to bury the dead is not going to be sustainable in the long run if we are to continue feeding the world's ever growing population.

Oregonians are looking for more sustainable death care options. HB 2574 would create an additional option for death care practice that is more environmentally-friendly and sustainable. For the above reasons, I ask for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Carol Tomasella-Shaffner
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