

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

I, Sarah Winter, am pleased to offer my support for HB 2574. This legislation would allow a natural disposition of remains by natural organic reduction (NOR), gently converting human remains into soil in an accelerated process.

I support this bill for two primary reasons. The most important is that it is a much more environmentally-friendly and sustainable option for disposition than almost any of the currently available methods. I have thought long and hard about how I want to have my own death handled and have struggled with the ecological impact of the various options. I do not think we as a society can continue to pollute the ground (with chemicals and metals) or the air (with the carbon impact of cremation) in the process of laying our dead to rest, especially as population continues to grow. Oregon especially should be leading the way in new environmental options, as we are well known as a state which embraces our natural beauty. Secondly, I will mention that I have strong spiritual beliefs that guide my decisions about death and disposition, and would greatly appreciate being able to use a method that fits them more than anything that is currently used or readily available in this state. I feel that freedom to choose what happens to us after death is part of freedom of religion.

For the above reasons, I ask for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Sarah Winter
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