

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

I, Dale Stebbins, 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 am interested in how we inter and mourn our loved ones and the variety of ways our own and other cultures handled human remains. I am frustrated that options aligned with my values are not available.

We humans are part of the natural world – sustained by it and sustain other life, if we allow it. We inhale tree-oxygenated air, and trees suck the carbon dioxide we exhale.) We are made up of the same variety of nutrients, minerals, and carbon compounds as other living things. Yet when my friends and family members die, my options to burn or preserve them at great financial and ecological cost do not acknowledge this truth. When we can do so safely, it is biologically unfair, spiritually unholy, and sociologically nonsensical to sequester remains from the rest of the natural world when we die. We now have the means to basically compost ourselves safely and have every reason to do so.]

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,

Dale Stebbins  
1619 SE Ladd Ave #3  
Portland, OR 97214  
drstebbins@gmail.com