

Letter of Testimony in support of HB4158

Date: February 21, 2022

To: Chair Smith Warner, Vice Chair Breese-Iverson, Vice Chair Fahey, and Members of the House Rules Committee

From: Ken Henson, Tillamook County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Chair

Re: **Support House Bill 4158**

HB 4158 provides an urgent short-term technical fix to Oregon's E-Cycles Program. The bill allows DEQ to change the projected goal of materials estimated to come into the program in 2022 and retain existing collection sites that are being dropped from the program on March 1, 2022.

Over the past decade, consumers in Tillamook County have been able to conveniently dispose of potentially hazardous e-waste materials through our three county transfer stations, located in North (Manzanita), Central (Tillamook), and South (Pacific City) Tillamook County. The Goodwill in Tillamook also accepts e-waste at their store.

In recent years on average our transfer stations have collection 70 to 75 tons of e-waste each year, with an additional 5-10 tons being recycled through other means, such as at Goodwill, or sent directly to a recycling facility. Of that quantity, approximately two-thirds of it is collected at our Central Transfer Station, in Tillamook, operated by Don G. Averill Recycling.

For reasons beyond our control, NCER, the operator of the State Contractor Program, has chosen to drop the Tillamook Transfer Station from its contracted partners in 2022, and MRM has indicated that they have "no intention" of taking on additional sites.

This means that even though Oregon consumers are paying for the E-CYCLE program each time they purchase a TV, computer, or other program materials, an estimated 100,000 pounds of e-waste is at risk of being displaced in the Tillamook area.

As was discussed in a recent Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting, it is *inconvenient* and *illogical* to send consumers wishing to recycle nearly 100,000 pounds of e-waste away from the Tillamook Transfer Station, which is a full service recycling center, as well as home to the first permanent Household Hazardous Waste collection facility on the Oregon Coast – having collected over one million pounds of HHW from over 10,000 residents over the past ten years.

As was asked at that SWAC meeting: **Where is the public benefit?** We could only conclude that this is an example of where the private operators of this program are more interested in economics than in the public benefit.

If we were to use our own funds to maintain this system, or charge consumers to drop off e-waste, then it could easily be argued that "double dipping" is taking place, since consumers have already paid for this service once.

I urge you to pass HB4158 so that this disservice to Oregon consumers can be avoided.

Sincerely,


Ken Henson

Tillamook County Solid Waste Advisory Committee Chair