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February 16, 2022

Representative Barbara Smith Warner, Chair
Representative Vikki Breese Iverson, Vice Chair
Representative Julie Fahey, Vice Chair
Members of the House Rules Committee
Via email

Re: **Support for House Bill 4158**

HB 4158 provides an urgently needed short-term technical fix to Oregon's E-Cycles Program. The bill allows DEQ to change the projected goal of e-waste program 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.

Changes recently made to the Oregon E-Cycles Program are hitting communities in the Rogue Valley harder than anywhere else in the state. We understand that the current collection sites being dropped from the E-Cycles Program generate an estimated 1 million pounds of electronic waste (things like computers, monitors, and TVs), which will be displaced statewide. **600,000 pounds of that material will be displaced in Jackson County alone, as our local solid waste and recycling transfer station in White City, Rogue Transfer & Recycling (RTR), is one of the facilities being denied participation in the state E-Cycles program as of March 1, 2022.**

Rogue Transfer & Recycling has been accepting electronic waste for recycling since 2008, and they currently manage 75% of the e-waste collected in Jackson County. Our residents and businesses clearly feel that this location is the most convenient access point to the E-Cycles program.

Eliminating the most convenient and accessible option for these materials that are considered hazardous and are banned from landfill disposal will result in health and safety issues. The 600,000 pounds normally accepted by Rogue Transfer Station will not just disappear – it will need to go somewhere. At best, it will be taken to smaller facilities with less capacity to safely handle and store that kind of increased volume. At worst, it is more likely to be hidden in trash loads, or illegally dumped, which both equate to the need for costly enforcement.



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The proposed cuts to the program will disproportionately impact rural Oregon communities. And in our case, dropping the most well utilized site in the Rogue Valley region is highly disruptive to our recycling system and destabilizes what has been a safe and environmentally sound way to manage, store, transport and recycle hazardous electronic materials.

Thank you for your consideration. **We urge your support for HB 4158**

Sincerely,



Travis Snyder
Chair, Board of Directors
The Chamber of Medford & Jackson County



Eli Matthews, IOM
President & CEO
The Chamber of Medford & Jackson County