

January 25, 2023

House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment  
900 Court Street  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: Support for HB 2531 – Clean Lighting**

Chair Pam Marsh, Vice-Chairs Bobby Levy and Emerson Levy, Members of the Committee,

Metro supports HB 2531, which will phase out the sale of fluorescent lights. You heard from many during the public hearing about the energy and climate impacts of the bill, but I wanted to highlight and underscore the implications on the waste streams. Metro's Household Hazardous Waste program offers a pathway for people to properly dispose of fluorescent lights, but still these light bulbs end up in landfills across our region. This is partially because there is a lack of convenient hazardous waste disposal service statewide and lack of general knowledge that fluorescent lights contain hazardous material, like mercury. When fluorescent bulbs are accidentally broken—whether in homes, businesses, or the waste management system—they present a health hazard to those nearby. Metallic mercury vapors are harmful if inhaled and pollute the air and water when incinerated or disposed of improperly in landfills. Children and pregnant people are at most risk, but anyone who visits, works or lives near a landfill with improperly disposed of fluorescent lights is at risk.

We support HB 2531 because it will incentivize people and business to use more energy efficient and nonhazardous LED options, while reducing and ultimately phasing out toxic mercury fluorescent lights. This will reduce carbon emissions which we are supportive of, but it will lead to less toxic materials in the waste streams, that are at risk of being improperly disposed of. Banning the sale of fluorescent lights will greatly reduce mercury releasing in the air and endangering folks who work or live near our landfill, and it will greatly reduce the amount of mercury leaching from landfills contaminating rivers, lakes, and oceans and having negative impacts on fish and shellfish within them.

We urge your support on HB 2531.

Sincerely,

Jenna Jones  
State and Regional Affairs Advisor  
Metro