



NETWORK of OREGON  
WATERSHED COUNCILS

February 15th, 2023

To: The Oregon Legislature Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

**Re: Support for SB 542, Relating to a right to repair consumer electronic equipment; SB 543, Relating to prohibition for certain products (polystyrene foam containers); and SB544, Relating to prohibiting certain consumer products (single-use plastic food ware and single use packaging)**

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Greetings, Chair Sollman:

The [Network of Oregon Watershed Councils](#) (NOWC), based in Hillsboro, Oregon, represents 55 **watershed councils** statewide, which are local, community-based, non-regulatory groups that assess and monitor environmental conditions, and conduct voluntary conservation projects to restore/enhance the waters and lands for native species and people. Each watershed council is familiar with their particular ecological habitats' features, and works to understand and address specific challenges, usually focusing on rivers or creeks and the lands that drain into them.

A common theme across these restoration projects is the organized removal of accumulated garbage/litter – last year, across the state, watershed councils led dozens of community volunteer-based projects that removed thousands of pounds of garbage from Oregon's rivers and estuaries, a significant portion was single-use plastic/polystyrene packaging. There is abundant scientific evidence that plastic degrades in waterways, creating microplastics that endanger fish and marine life of all kinds, from whales to the smallest creatures; and that microplastics in our habitats and food chains are detrimental to human health as well.

For these reasons, NOWC supports Bills **SB 542**, Relating to a right to repair consumer electronic equipment; **SB 543**, Relating to prohibition for certain products (polystyrene foam containers); and **SB544**, Relating to prohibiting certain consumer products (single-use plastic food ware and single use packaging). NOWC believes this legislation would support a statewide

transition to compostable products and promote ecologically responsible business practices that would positively affect the health of our watersheds.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Vanessa Green', enclosed within a faint, hand-drawn circular outline.

Vanessa Green  
Executive Director  
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