



April 11, 2023

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: HB 3220A, E-Cycles Program Updates Bill– SUPPORT

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley & Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Recology, I am writing in support of HB 3220A, which would update Oregon's E-Cycles Program to ensure equitable access, convenience, and stability for the program. Recology is a 100% employee-owned waste hauling and processing company, managing recycling, organic waste, and solid waste collection, processing, and disposal services for multiple communities throughout Oregon. In addition, Recology manages several transfer stations around the state and supports measures that encourage the best and highest use of resources and reduce waste in landfills through educational programming in the communities we serve.

Recology's vision is to create "a world without waste", so when rural E-Cycles collection sites were threatened to close in late 2021, we jumped into action. With the help of our industry partners, and with the leadership of our elected officials, were able to get a short-term solution. Even though the proposed closures would not have directly impacted any of our facilities, we knew there would be indirect consequences if facilities nearby had to cease accepting electronic waste. The community members who use these facilities expect to be able to drop off everything at the transfer stations, and changes to the types of materials we accept are confusing for customers and should be avoided at all costs. We are very grateful to everyone who negotiated a temporary fix to the issue, allowing most collection sites to remain open to provide service to customers while a long-term solution was found.

In July 2022, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) convened a stakeholder process to identify what changes were needed to ensure safe, long term collection locations for E-Waste could be provided throughout Oregon. This resulted in the bill language before you for consideration today. HB 3220A makes several changes to support the future success of E-Cycles program including:

- Allowing for Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) to adapt to changes in the volume of material, by removing the state contractor program and collections determination process;
- Raising the number of minimum collection sites required in law based on population density and enabling willing DEQ-permitted solid waste facilities to opt-in to the program; and
- Ensuring collection sites will receive fair compensation to cover the costs of collecting, storing, managing, and transporting the e-waste materials.

We are proud to support HB 3220A and appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary Blake
General Manager, Recology Ashland