

April 24, 2023

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 123-A - Digital Labeling - Support

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

The Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) is a 501(c)6 committed to supporting policies that promote high-quality recycling and composting, thoughtful consumption, and producer responsibility. We believe the producers that manufacture and sell products to Oregonians should have a role in how products are managed at the end of their usable life. Equity is also centered in our guiding principles because we believe the reuse, repair and recycling economy should benefit everyone, including communities of color and rural areas. Our principles around the environment and producer responsibility are why AOR generally supports SB 123-A.

AOR knows consumers are confused about what is recyclable in Oregon. If passed, SB 123-A will ask the Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs), to include a recommendation on digital labeling in their plans for the Recycling Modernization Act by 2027. This type of policy will help hold producers accountable for minimizing confusion about the recyclability of their products. Digital labels are a powerful tool that could enable consumers to easily access local recycling information with a smart phone and should be part of our recyclability labeling strategy.

While we are supportive of digital labels, AOR believes its only part of the solution because SB 123-A does not encapsulate the comprehensive strategy recommended by the Truth in Labeling Taskforce. We believe producers should be responsible for doing more to address deceptive labeling practices and SB 123-A will not address all these issues by itself. AOR looks forward to continuing to advocate for comprehensive recyclability labeling policies that will reduce confusion for Oregonians across the state.

Sincerely,

Joel Schoening
Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers

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