



**BRINGrecycling.org**

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April 20, 2023

Oregon State Legislature  
Salem, Oregon

Dear Co-Chairs Girod, Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

BRING wishes to express our support for lottery backed funding at the amount of \$15,000,000 for the Lane County Integrated Material and Energy Recovery Facility (IMERF).

Located in Eugene, our organization is one of the oldest non-profit recyclers in the nation. We help our community keep useful items out of the landfill, reuse as many things as possible, and recycle the rest. BRING leads environmental education programs for students in Lane County through hands-on learning experiences and provides individuals and other community organizations with tools to live more sustainably, with less waste.

The IMERF will process 200,000 tons of municipal solid waste, effectively diverting 125,000 tons of waste from the landfill. The organic fraction of the waste will then be processed in an Anaerobic Digester, producing 1,300,000 diesel equivalents per year of renewable natural gas, and reducing over 100,000 tons of CO2 equivalent emissions.

This project will be in Goshen, OR just south of Eugene, and it will increase the waste diversion rate in Lane County from 53% (the highest rate in Oregon) to 70%. This is well above the statewide rate of 42.1% calculated in 2020. The IMERF project would mark Lane County as a state leader and an example for sustainable waste management, renewable energy best practices, and landfill diversion.

BRING supports Lane County's IMERF project because of the significant impact it will have on diverting landfill-bound waste, renewable energy generation, and reducing Lane County's greenhouse gas emissions. This facility uses state-of-the-art technology to recover commodities for sale. This supports the circular economy, a principle that is included in [Oregon's 2050 Vision for Materials Management](#), and adopted by the Oregon Legislature in 2015.

In addition to the environmental benefits, IMERF is expected to generate \$30 million in economic revenue annually and create around 90 high-paying manufacturing and construction jobs.

BRING supports this project as it aids our mission and strengthens Lane County's long-term climate resiliency and economic conditions.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Stein,  
Executive Director