



February 16, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 3018

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to give input and for your good work on this committee. The Corvallis Youth Climate Action Now group (YouCAN) worked on and advocated for a food waste and recycling ordinance for about six years. Students from local high schools attended meetings, lobbied decision-makers and essentially engaged in our democratic process. They were doing it in the hopes that it would make a difference regarding climate change, a problem they earnestly wanted to do something about. The YouCAN team ultimately brought the initiative before the Corvallis City Council. As a result, an action to “Explore a food waste ordinance that would require certain establishments to compost food scraps” was put in the 2024 Strategic Operating Plan.¹ However, currently food waste collection is still a volunteer program.

The reason why the food waste initiative stalled can be explained. When we were gathering information from city leaders in the Portland Metro area, we were told that prior to 2019, Metro had a voluntary program for 11 years, similar to Corvallis, but they realized they had hit a ceiling. They knew that a voluntary program will not be sufficient to get them to their greenhouse reduction goals. To do this, they needed to enact policy. So, the Metro regional government, which includes 24 cities and 3 counties, passed a food waste policy. We believe that Corvallis has hit the ceiling that Portland Metro did and needs a policy-driven solution. HB 3018 is that solution the City of Corvallis needs – as well as all the cities outside of Portland Metro – which will provide a policy-driven boost.

The urgency is clear. The City of Corvallis signed a resolution stating that a climate emergency exists. However, the city is lacking in addressing food waste. Corvallis has had a voluntary commercial food waste program for 15 years, and Corvallis is well situated given that the [Pacific](#)

¹ Explore a food waste ordinance that would require certain establishments to compost food scraps. (CAP) (City Manager’s Office)
<https://archives.corvallisoregon.gov/public/0/edoc/3300285/Corvallis%20Strategic%20Operational%20Plan%202024-2028%20-%20Adopted%20February%206.%202023.pdf>

[Region Compost Facility](#) (PRC) is 8 miles away, whereas some Portland Metro cities, as well as Salem, truck their food waste to the PRC. Corvallis sends most of its food waste to the Coffin Butte landfill even though the PRC is across the street.

Keeping organics out of Coffin Butte can help save limited landfill space while producing a valuable product for farms, gardens and landscape uses. Organics sent to the landfill turn into methane, which is 80% more potent than CO₂ in a 20-year time span.² It is well recognized that capturing the methane from organics before landfilling is dramatically more efficient in reducing GHG emissions. Compost-rich soil also absorbs water run-off and breaks down urban pollutants. Healthy soil increases drought resistance by reducing the need for supplemental water, fertilizers, and pesticides. HB 3018 will help cities turn their food waste into compost!

As you know, action on climate change cannot wait any longer. Oregonians have suffered through unprecedented heat waves, and horrific fire seasons will get worse into the future. HB 3018 is what we need to reduce greenhouse gases. Actions taken now can still mitigate the worst effects of global warming for generations to come—though time is running out to act. Therefore, please pass HB 3018.

Respectfully submitted,



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²Landfills Belch Climate-Warming Methane. Even the EPA Doesn't Know How Much
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ASHFIS1d7Ok0mccdbYoDunSGJWibEZRU/edit>