



Sustainability in Action

**Written testimony on HB 3018 by Julie Jackson, Municipal Relationship Manager at Republic Services before the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and the Environment, February 18, 2025**

Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Levy, members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and the Environment. For the record, my name is Julie Jackson, and I am the Municipal Relationship Manager at Republic Services, submitting written testimony on behalf of Republic Service with suggested additions to HB 3018.

Pacific Region Compost in Northern Benton County is owned and operated by Republic Services and is one of the largest facilities in Oregon to accept and process food waste. Republic Services worked with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality from 2008-2010 to create a process for composting food waste in the state. Increasing the green waste processed from about 20,000 yards in 2010 to over 140,000 in 2024 is the result of our diligence to grow the amount of organic material diverted from landfills and composted to create a beneficial soil amendment. We also compost green waste and food scraps in Deschutes County and work with other composters in Oregon to ensure a clean and useful product.

We support efforts to increase collection of food scraps and want to see this become an efficient process that closes the loop with organic material. The compost process is basic, but it requires a clean feed stock to be efficient. Contaminants including plastics made from all sources and fiber containers make the process difficult and require extra labor, equipment and time to remove. These products can prevent finished compost from being allowed on crops certified as Organic. We urge you to prevent these products from being allowed in Oregon composting.

Composting on the scale needed by this bill will require additional facilities to handle the increased volume of organic material. We must create reliable markets for compost to be used in a beneficial manner to truly close the loop. Examples include soil erosion and remediation, public spaces and agricultural uses.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. With the changes outlined in this testimony and that of the Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association, we look forward to supporting HB 3018.