



Representative John Lively, Chair
Representative Mark Gamba, Vice Chair
Representative Bobby Levy, Vice Chair
Members of the House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee

The Association of Oregon Counties would like to share concerns regarding **HB 3018** as drafted. Although the Association does not currently have an official position, we felt it was important to get some of these issues on record. Furthermore, AOC is committed to working with the bill's proponents to address our concerns through the amendment process.

Vector Control Issues:

Counties are the local government that is responsible for vector control and responding to public health issues. The storing of food waste in large quantities on site can have the potential to attract additional rodents and insects that will lead to public health concerns for our citizens. Local landfills already are seeing an increase in rodents and by having more food waste stored throughout the counties, an increase in additional vector and rodent response will be needed. In 2024, one Oregon county confirmed a case of plague in a local resident. This was brought on by a pet that came in contact with rodents and fleas. Counties take public health very seriously and as such, significant safeguards will be needed if this bill moves forward.

Locations and Capacity:

As written, any business within 75 miles of a facility that is authorized to accept food waste is considered a covered entity, regardless to whether the facility has the ability to expand to meet the increased volume this bill contemplates.

It is not clear if the demand for food waste composting would be an incentive for facilities to undertake the increased capital costs needed to expand, or what exactly the land use issues with said expansion could entail. Furthermore, there is not currently a facility south of Lane County that partakes in food waste composting; and east of the cascades there are only three facilities. The potential this bill has for increased land use and costs to create the program in local governments are high.

As currently drafted, the 75 miles to a facility would be in a circle radius drawn on a map. Much of rural and frontier Oregon the road distance traveled would be far greater than what would appear as a straight line on a map. As drafted, the bill provides an exemption until 2032 for areas outside of that 75 mile radius, however after that point, they would all be required to come into the system.

Unfunded requirements on local governments:

As drafted, Section 5 of the proposed -1 amendment requires counties and cities to provide the collection service to covered entities without any funding mechanism attached to the bill. Most

cities and counties contract out their waste hauling to a private company, but if that company cannot take on these additional services, the requirement would still be present, and local governments would see a **significant fiscal impact** to implement this concept.

Although these are just a few of the concerns counties have with the proposed bill and amendment as drafted, AOC is more than willing to continue the conversations with the bill proponents and sponsors to address these concerns.

Thank you.