

## Statement of Support for HB 3246 and the -3 Amendment

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House bill 3246 represents a significant step towards promoting sustainable industrial practices in Oregon. We can empower communities to develop innovative solutions that transform waste into valuable resources, enhance economic resilience, and protect our environment. This legislation aims to provide industrial symbiosis technical assistance for up to six pilot communities across Oregon.

In the rural agricultural region of Eastern Oregon, we are considering several projects that exemplify the potential benefits of industrial symbiosis. One such project involves collaboration between local agricultural producers and food processing facilities. By exchanging by-products and waste materials, these industries can reduce disposal costs, lower environmental impact, and create new revenue streams. For example, agricultural waste can be converted into bioenergy or packaging.

The region has a deep history of working together to find solutions. This past year the Industrial Ag Producers have spent considerable time together collaborating. Several of us have attended the Industrial Symbiosis Tour to Denmark and even helped to support the Danish experts coming to our region and spending a few days providing their expertise. Last week we met with Oregon State University Food Science and Technical Services department to look at our waste products to determine next steps on science and research work on sustainable opportunities.

### **House bill 3246 has several benefits.**

1. Industrial symbiosis can **drive economic growth** by reducing operational costs, creating new business opportunities, and enhancing competitiveness.
2. By minimizing waste and optimizing resource use, industrial symbiosis contributes to a circular economy, **reducing the strain on natural resources and lowering greenhouse gas emissions.**
3. The development of industrial symbiosis networks can **stimulate job creation** in various sectors, including waste management, recycling, and green technologies.

Supporting industrial symbiosis technical assistance is a wise investment for the State of Oregon. A small amount of planning and collaboration upfront can maximize multi-million-dollar public and private infrastructure investments. By fostering collaboration and innovation, we can achieve significant economic, environmental, and social benefits for our communities.

The dollars requested will support the regions in the state that have the desire to get started on this journey. I believe that this legislation along with the funding will provide the opportunity for each community to move these discussions and collaboration forward in a significant manner.

I urge the committee to support HB 3246 and the -3 amendment. By providing technical assistance for industrial symbiosis, we can empower communities to develop sustainable solutions that benefit both industry and the environment. Thank you for your attention and consideration.