



March 20, 2025

**TO:** Members of the House Committee Climate, Energy, and Environment  
**FR:** Duke Shepard, Oregon Business & Industry  
**RE:** OBI Opposes HB 2960

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Mr. Chair and members of the committee, for the record, my name is Duke Shepard, and I am a Senior Policy Director at Oregon Business and Industry.

OBI is a statewide association representing businesses across a wide variety of industries from all 36 of Oregon's counties. In addition to being the statewide chamber of commerce, OBI is the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation. Our 1,600 member companies, more than 75% of which are small businesses, employ over 250,000 Oregonians. Oregon's private-sector businesses drive a healthy, prosperous economy for the benefit of everyone.

The law of the conservation of matter states that matter can be neither destroyed nor created, only transformed. This law cannot be repealed or changed via legislation.

The world has 118 years' worth of diverse types of plastics to deal with, if all plastic stopped production this afternoon. We have to do something with it – we can transform it, or burn it, or bury it.

Modern society as we know it would struggle to exist without plastic in its current form. It's understandable to be frustrated with injection molded plastic toys from China and fast fashion and the like, but the reality is that plastic is indispensable to countless industries and aspects of daily life from energy to health care to transportation to construction. So, this means we have plastic, and we're not going to stop needing or using it any time soon.

An outright ban on plastics recycling facilities seems to indicate a surprising lack of faith in Oregon's myriad regulatory structures.

If a company has the technology and can make the business case pencil out, and then is willing and able to navigate and comply with the permitting and regulatory compliance requirements of air quality permits, [Cleaner Air Oregon](#), water quality permits, the [Climate Protection Program](#), clean fuels standards, building energy performance standards, clean energy standards, and land use appeals, all to recycle 118 years' worth of human produced plastics why would we say "no"?

Finally, there's another bill in this body, HB 3246, with bi-partisan support to promote Industrial Symbiosis, so businesses work collaboratively across industries to use and reuse

waste products. If a plastics recycler wanted to locate and operate in and be a part of an Industrial Symbiosis hub, again, why would Oregon say no?

Pre-emptively banning an entire industry that is going to have to exist is unwise and counterproductive policy.

Please do not proceed with this legislation.