

March 25, 2025

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 3780 - Oppose

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy and Members of the Committee,

The Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) is a 501(c)6 committed to supporting policies that promote high-quality recycling and composting, thoughtful consumption, and producer responsibility. AOR's diverse membership includes more than 200 businesses, governments, nonprofits and individuals working together on the common goal of achieving a system of sustainable materials management in Oregon. We believe the producers that manufacture and sell products to Oregonians should have a role in how products are managed at the end of their usable life. Equity and community partnerships are also centered in our guiding principles because we believe the reuse, repair and recycling economy should benefit everyone, including communities of color and rural areas. These principles and our drive to serve our communities are why AOR opposes HB 3780.

HB 3780 would remove newspaper from the Pollution Prevention and Recycling Modernization Act (PPRMA), Oregon's landmark packaging, printing and writing paper and food serviceware producer responsibility law. The PPRMA was signed into law in 2021 to modernize Oregon's recycling system in the face of international recycling market turmoil and concerns about whether our recycling from Oregon was being managed responsibly by end markets. Removing newspapers from the PPRMA would require that newspaper either be removed from mixed recycling programs or the cost of managing it as recycling be shifted to other producers and/or garbage and recycling collection rate payers.

We understand the importance of local journalism and the slim margins local news organizations operate on. We believe two sections in the PPRMA will limit the financial burden on these important organizations. First, ORS 459A.872 exempts 'small producers' from the requirement to be a member of a producer responsibility organization. 'Small producers' include organizations with gross revenue of less than \$5 million a year. Second, ORS 459A.884(7) provides that "a producer responsibility organization shall accept the value of print and online advertising services in lieu of all or a portion of a membership fee". Allowing newspaper publishers to support public education and outreach in lieu of paying fees.

After years of rulemaking, AOR members are ready to move into the implementation phase of the PPRMA. We believe it is essential to not remove specific materials and that the Act be fully implemented, limiting free-riders and delivering on the promise of a modern recycling system to Oregonians. We also believe that the Act recognizes the potential impact on small organizations with slim margins, such as local news organizations, as evidenced by the above noted provisions in ORS 459A.

2024-2025 AOR BOARD

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AOR urges you to oppose HB 3780 and not remove newspaper from Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act extended producer responsibility law.

Sincerely,

Joel Schoening
Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers

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