



OREGON REFUSE & RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

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Testimony by Craig Campbell, Governmental Affairs Director, Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association, before the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment in opposition to HB 3780.

Chair Lively, Vice Chair Gamba, Vice Chair Levy, Members of the Committee

ORRA is the statewide trade association representing over 90 solid waste management companies in Oregon. Our regular members collect and process most of Oregon's residential and commercial refuse and recyclables, and operate material recovery facilities, compost facilities, and many of Oregon's municipal solid waste transfer stations and landfills. Additionally, ORRA has over 50 associate members that provide goods and services to our members, including various types of trucks needed for solid waste and recycling collection services.

Oregon has had a long history of successful recycling programs, and the State has a very strong recycling ethos. Those programs have always relied on the willingness of Oregon ratepayers to cover the costs of the programs. However, Oregon is a big state, and there are significant geographic disparities in the current system. The further you get from large population centers, the harder it is to connect to markets, and the transportation costs to those markets increase. As a result, recycling efforts in rural Oregon haven't often penciled out financially, and some communities have not introduced recycling programs because they would be more expensive for rural ratepayers than garbage disposal. The RMA is taking substantive steps to change that rural dynamic. Producers pay into the system through a Professional Responsibility Organization (PRO) to assist with the startup costs of recycling programs where limited or no recycling programs exist, or where existing programs would need to be expanded to meet the recycling goals set by the state.

A primary goal was to create a shared responsibility model for recycling, with defined and measurable responsibilities for all stakeholders. The PRO component is the producers' part of the shared responsibility and aims to improve the resilience and modernization of the entirety of the recycling system in Oregon, particularly in post-collection processes. The RMA focuses on reducing contamination, ensuring responsible end markets, and creating a transparent path from generator to responsible end market. It also emphasizes the importance of funding for system modernization investments, and it creates a list of commingled recycled materials that are collected throughout the state. This list is the Uniform Statewide Collection List (USCL).

Newspapers are one of Oregon's most successfully recyclable materials. However, producers of newspapers are required to register with the PRO under the RMA not to pay for existing newspaper recycling programs, but rather to help support the expansion of newspaper recycling



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along with other USCL materials to areas of the state that do not have recycling programs in place or to expand recycling programs to make recycling of newspaper and other USCL materials easier for the public. ORRAs consistent position on producer involvement in the RMA is simple. If the RMA is expanding the footprint of recycling in Oregon and that expansion includes a producer's product, then that producer needs to pay for its share of the costs of expanding that system. It is for that reason that ORRA opposes HB 3780.

Thank you for your time and attention!

Craig Campbell
Governmental Affairs Director