



OREGON REFUSE & RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

April 7, 2025

Testimony by Craig Campbell, Governmental Affairs Director, Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association (ORRA), before the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment to provide feedback to House Bill 3794.

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

Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association (ORRA) is the statewide trade association representing solid waste management companies in Oregon. ORRA members collect and process most of Oregon's residential and commercial refuse and recyclables, as well as operate material recovery facilities, compost facilities, and many of Oregon's municipal solid waste transfer stations and landfills.

HB 3794 asks the State of Oregon to create a regional task force to review the findings of another regional task force assembled by Benton County, which has not yet made its findings, and I understand will not make findings until this June. The new task force would then make recommendations to the legislature based on this review.

ORRA members across the state are feverishly working with local government partners and others to implement the Recycling Modernization Act (RMA). The RMA is the result of years of work to create a consistent statewide approach to managing the recovery of solid waste that would otherwise end up in landfills. This work is time-consuming and requires diligent effort by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Circular Action Alliance (CAA) - the Producer Responsibility Organization overseeing the RMA, local governments, and service providers, most of whom are ORRA members. This work is crucial and will offer expanded recycling opportunities throughout Oregon while reducing contamination, and ensuring our materials go to responsible end markets.

The efforts to implement the RMA should be prioritized such that it proceeds without additional burdens on those involved. The task force created by HB 3794 would impose such a burden. ORRA members are an integral part of a system that responsibly manages solid waste through reducing, reusing, recycling, composting, and energy recovery. However, these efforts must be part of a statewide approach. We urge the legislature to avoid actions that would fragment the state's efforts to achieve these stated goals and to avoid taking the initiative away from local governments, who are best positioned to assess the solid waste needs of their communities within the context of these state goals.

It is important to note that the task force established by the bill limits representation of solid waste service providers to a single representative, specifically from one company. When, in future, the time is right to engage in the work suggested for the task force in HB 3794, and the



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legislature can see what findings the task force is asked to review, the task force would benefit from including several service providers. These providers bring diverse perspectives from various solid waste and recycling sectors, such as landfills, transfer stations, material recovery facilities, and composting facilities. This wealth of knowledge and experience is not currently reflected in the recommended task force members and including these perspectives would contribute to a more fruitful outcome.

Thank you for your time and attention!

Craig Campbell
Governmental Affairs Director