

From: Julie Daniel [<mailto:julied@bringrecycling.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 12:20 PM
To: Reiley Beth
Subject: Testimony for SB 245 & 263, Policy Option Package 132

Dear Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bills 245 & 263, and Policy Option Package 132. I am the Executive Director of a sustainability focused NGO working in your district. I was a member of the stakeholder group for the DEQ's Materials Management in Oregon: 2050 Vision and Framework for Action. A broad range of business, non-profit, governmental and industry interests were represented in the group, which met for several months. Even though we came with diverse perspectives, we agreed on the new approach encapsulated in the DEQ's 2050 Vision. These bills begin the work of implementing that plan.

Of prime concern to my organization, and to me personally, is the urgent need to align greenhouse gas reductions with policies that support new ways of managing and thinking about waste. This legislation takes important steps towards that goal. Since close to half of greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon are associated with the manufacture, use and final disposition of consumer goods and food, encouraging sustainable consumption and best practices discard management is common sense. Implementing the Materials Management 2050 Vision requires Oregonians to think differently about waste. As well as focusing on tonnage diverted for recycling, we need to think about reducing toxicity and increasing waste prevention. Recovering recyclables will always be important, but helping businesses and families reduce what they need to discard—in recycling bins as well as landfills—is the future.

A problem I've noted over my years of involvement in waste issues is funding erosion for the DEQ's work. **Senate Bill 245** would help address this with a modest increase in tipping and permit fees levied across the state. The fees have not been adjusted for more than 20 years, while costs to provide services have inevitably risen. The DEQ has adapted to budget realities by reducing staffing, which effectively reduces their ability to tackle the kinds of projects and initiatives that are necessary if we are to shift to more sustainable methods of managing materials. The fees represent a tiny portion of overall garbage rates and permit fees and would impact individual households to the tune of 4c to 7c a month. Creating waste is a behavior over which individuals and businesses have a great deal of control. Those wishing to reduce garbage fees overall can adjust their purchasing and disposal habits accordingly. **Policy Option Package 132** would allow the DEQ to use these funds to staff seven existing, but unfunded positions.

Senate Bill 245 eliminates an unfair loophole, one that has adversely affected my organization and many for-profit waste handlers. It levels the playing field by requiring full fees for waste used as landfill cover, and materials disposed in construction and demolition and tire landfills. These facilities do not pay the same fees other landfills do, giving them a competitive advantage that incentivizes discarding materials over putting them to secondary uses. Delta Sand and Gravel operates such a facility in Lane County.

Senate Bill 263 updates recycling and waste prevention laws and goals. Current laws were written before the necessity to address climate change; before we had such a clear understanding of the relationship between sustainable materials management and environmental, social and economic health. Besides giving communities more incentive to reduce waste and greater flexibility on meeting goals, it closes a major loophole. Recycling, which most of us consider a basic option in garbage service, is not currently required in multi-family housing. Tenants cannot expect the service as a given, but must

rely on the property owner or manager to request it. Many will not, leaving a significant portion of the community unserved. Multi-family housing is on the rise as communities emphasize dense development to meet housing needs without expanding the urban growth boundary.

My only criticism of this legislation is that it doesn't go far enough, especially on the funding side. As consumers, we should pay the full cost of wasting resources. The more we charge for disposal, the greater the incentive to change manufacturing and purchasing habits and recover valuable materials from the waste stream.

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