

The Association of Oregon Counties Supports SB 263A

DATE: May 5th, 2015
TO: House Energy and Environment Committee
FROM: Mark Nystrom, AOC Policy Staff

DEQ's legislative proposal SB263 pertains to materials management. This bill stems from the Materials Management Work Group and its three sub-groups which met a total of twenty two times in 2014. AOC believes this bill reflects a general consensus of that Materials Management Work Group about balanced and necessary solutions to strengthen the ever-complex related activities of DEQ and local wastesheds to manage 'best practices' for solid waste and hazardous waste throughout Oregon. Likewise, inaction at this time will likely amplify for local governments the tumultuous and rapidly changing nature of 'materials management', as Counties strive to understand, manage and communicate to our citizens about the prioritization of hazards and resource impacts in our communities.

Benefits to local wastesheds:

- Better and more responsive measurement of outcomes, including improvements to the annual material recovery survey and continuation of waste composition studies with opportunities for local partners to "buy in" to oversampling in their communities to generate community-specific waste composition results, with half of all sampling costs paid by DEQ.
- Statewide capacity building in several areas, including environmental analysis of materials to inform sound decision-making by local governments, consumers and businesses.

AOC would like to commend DEQ in their outreach to counties. DEQ staff responded promptly and efficiently to each county's concerns. DEQ has effectively addressed all the local problems that were raised to AOC. If you have any questions regarding this testimony, please contact AOC Policy Manager Mark Nystrom.