

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

January 25, 2005 Hearing Room D

1:00 P.M. Tapes 4 - 5

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Gordon Anderson, Chair

Rep. Mary Nolan, Vice-Chair

Rep. Phil Barnhart

Rep. Bill Garrard

Rep. John Lim

Rep. Diane Rosenbaum

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Bob Jenson, Vice-Chair

STAFF PRESENT: John Houser, Committee Administrator

Mike Reiley, Committee Assistant

MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:

Oregon Environmental Council Overview– Informational Meeting

Meeting
Oregon Cattlemen’s Association Overview– Informational

Meeting
Association of Oregon Recyclers Overview– Informational

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker’s exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/# Speaker Comments

TAPE 4, A

002 Chair Anderson Calls the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Opens the informational meeting on the overview of the Oregon Environmental Council.

OREGON ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL – INFORMATIONAL MEETING

008 Matt Blevins Legislative Affairs Director, Oregon Environmental Council (OEC). Submits and summarizes prepared overview of OEC (**EXHIBIT A**). Highlights the Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) Common Environmental Agenda and legislative priorities (**EXHIBIT A, Page 1**).

047 Chair Anderson Asks about the pollution impact of school buses idling in front of schools.

052 Blevins Answers that OEC is working to promote biodiesel (**EXHIBIT A, Page 3**) and education to reduce the negative impact of diesel pollution due to school buses idling.

061 Chair Anderson Asks about upcoming biodiesel testimony before the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

070 Blevins Answers that a hearing is set for January 28, 2005.

072 Chair Anderson Notes that the House Environment Committee will hear testimony on fuel catalysts on February 1, 2005.

075 Blevins Discusses the pesticide use reporting system (**EXHIBIT A, Page 5**) and toxic flame retardants (**EXHIBIT A, Page 7**).

086 Rep. Garrard Asks if Mr. Blevins represents OCN.

088 Blevins Answers that OEC is a member of OCN, a statewide coalition of environmental groups.

091 Rep. Garrard Asks about OCN proposal to protect the environment and create jobs.

095	Blevins	Answers that the proposal refers to Measure 66 fund implementation.
103	Rep. Barnhart	Asks if toxic flame retardants are used in products such as children's pajamas.
106	Blevins	Answers that they have been used in many products, but many companies are phasing them out.
110	Rep. Barnhart	Asks if toxic flame retardant problem is similar to the asbestos removal problem.
113	Blevins	Answers that toxic flame retardants were used in many products, not construction projects.
120	Chair Anderson	Closes the informational meeting on the Oregon Environmental Council overview. Opens the informational meeting on the Oregon Cattlemen's Association overview.

OREGON CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OVERVIEW – INFORMATIONAL MEETING

125	Glen Stonebrink	Oregon Cattlemen's Association. Discusses concerns about mad cow disease and impacts of Measure 37 and private property issues including wetlands. Discusses the wolf conservation and management plan in development. Notes the impact of the sage grouse being listed as an endangered species. Argues that salmon and cattle can coexist. Discusses research regarding tree planting along stream banks. Addresses lawsuits that threaten ranchers. Discusses legislation that will assess cattle producers 50 cents per head earmarked for industry research and image enhancement.
305	Rep. Lim	Asks for total number of cattle sold per year in Oregon.
311	Stonebrink	Explains the difficulty in measuring how cattle are sold. Estimates that it is approximately 800,000.
334	Rep. Barnhart	Asks for explanation of CAFO.
337	Stonebrink	Explains that it is Confined Animal Feeding Operation.
345	Rep. Lim	Recognizes visitors from Korea.

350 Chair Anderson Closes the informational meeting on the Oregon Cattlemen's Association overview. Opens the informational meeting on the Association of Oregon Recyclers overview.

ASSOCIATION OF OREGON RECYCLERS OVERVIEW – INFORMATIONAL MEETING

355 Rick Winterhalter Legislative Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR). Submits and summarizes prepared overview of AOR (**EXHIBIT B**). Discusses AOR economic and environmental benefits (**B, Page 1, 2**) and intent for updating the Oregon Bottle Bill.

TAPE 5, A

053 Rep. Lim Asks about the potential for Washington state to develop a bottle bill similar to Oregon's.

056 Winterhalter Explains that AOR has been working with Washington state and notes legislative differences from Oregon.

060 Alex Cuyler Chair, AOR. Further explains the work being done to develop a Washington Bottle Bill.

071 Rep. Lim Asks why a new bottle bill would have to wait until 2007.

073 Winterhalter Explains that the issue requires a thoughtful approach and notes the importance of working with the industries involved.

081 Rep. Lim Points out that many grocers are concerned about handling potentially unsanitary containers without compensation.

087 Winterhalter Answers that it is an issue that will be addressed.

090 Chair Anderson Asks for clarification of "taking a lot of cars off the road" in Mr. Winterhalter's testimony.

095 Winterhalter Clarifies that he was referring to saving greenhouse gases and using secondary materials for processes such as paper-making that reduces pollutants equivalent to a million cars.

100 Chair Anderson Asks how AOR is involved in the recycling process.

104	Winterhalter	Explains AOR's involvement throughout the recycling process.
110	Chair Anderson	Asks what percentage of metal cans are recycled in facilities that are not associated with grocery stores.
113	Winterhalter	Answers that he does not have the information.
115	Chair Anderson	Asks what percentage of recycling is being collected statewide.
120	Winterhalter	Answers that the most recent figure is 57.2%.
124	Chair Anderson	Asks for a comparison of current recycling rate to when it began.
126	Winterhalter	Answers that recycling has doubled from approximately 25% in 1983.
130	Rep. Garrard	Asks where plastic water bottles go that are not recycled.
132	Winterhalter	Explains that the plastic is recyclable and much of it is moving into various markets.
140	Cuyler	Explains that the plastic is PET and the high demand for the product. Explains that foreign use has increased domestic production and that recycling has moved from an environmental movement to an industry that needs raw materials.
166	Rep. Garrard	Asks if a container deposit is necessary for increased recycling of plastic bottles.
168	Winterhalter	Answers that it may be necessary and notes that the plastic water bottles did not exist 30 years ago when the original bottle bill was passed.
170	Rep. Garrard	Asks if bottlers would prefer to not have to collect the containers.
172	Winterhalter	Answers he cannot speak for the bottlers.
174	Cuyler	Explains that material handling companies have developed as prices for the recycled material fluctuate.

206	Rep. Barnhart	Asks if cleaner roads and campgrounds are incentives for a new bottle bill as they were for the original bill.
218	Winterhalter	Answers yes. Explains studies that have been done that confirm it and that the data is forthcoming.
228	Rep. Barnhart	Notes amount of trash and beverage containers along I-5 from Salem to Eugene. Asks what PET is.
234	Cuyler	Explains that it is the clear plastic from which soda pop and water bottles are made.
244	Chair Anderson	Asks if there are some drink bottles that are not profitable to recycle.
252	Winterhalter	Explains the difference between basing profitability on the public good versus economic benefit. Answers that based on the standard of the public good, it is profitable and based on the market, there are some containers that are less profitable.
255	Chair Anderson	Asks at what point the benefit moves from a public good to an economic benefit.
260	Winterhalter	Explains that all of the recycled material is moving to markets. Points out that material such as glass typically stays in a regional market. Says that he is unsure of a specific measure of the benefit.
270	Chair Anderson	Asks if there are other states that have deposits on water bottles.
274	Cuyler	Explains that Maine and California have plastic bottle deposits.
276	Chair Anderson	Asks for clarification of California's Bottle Bill.
280	Cuyler	Explains both California's and Oregon's Bottle Bills.
290	Chair Anderson	Asks what deposit level would be acceptable to Oregonians.
296	Winterhalter	Answers that a study has been done on deposits, but the results have not yet been analyzed.
300	Cuyler	

Explains that in an OEC study in Portland, over 50% of respondents like the idea of an expanded list of recyclable beverage containers and approximately 40% thought that 10 cents was an appropriate deposit level. Notes that the 5 cent deposit is less of an incentive now than in 1972 and to continue the same economic incentive, the deposit would need to be 22 or 23 cents.

- | | | |
|-----|----------------|---|
| 315 | Rep. Lim | Asks if there are any tax credits for businesses involved in the recycling process. |
| 320 | Winterhalter | Explains the business energy tax credit used for trucks and buildings that are involved in the recycling process. |
| 330 | Chair Anderson | Closes the informational meeting on the Association of Oregon Recyclers overview. Adjourns the meeting at 1:58 p.m. |

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A. Oregon Environmental Council, Prepared Overview, Matt Blevins, 8 pp**
- B. Association of Oregon Recyclers, Prepared Overview, Rick Winterhalter, 4 pp**