



## OREGON REFUSE & RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

March 18, 2024

Senator Jeff Merkley  
531 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Founded in 1965 to advance the efficiencies of collecting and processing recyclables and solid waste, Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association (ORRA) is the statewide trade association representing solid waste management companies across Oregon. ORRA members collect, transport, and process most of Oregon's residential and commercial refuse and recyclables, as well as operate material recovery facilities and many of Oregon's municipal solid waste transfer stations, landfills, and compost facilities.

Oregon's regulated solid waste collection system provides sustainable, environmentally sound, equitable, and affordable service in urban and rural communities across the state. Working with cities and counties to provide essential solid waste services, our highest priority is the health and safety of Oregonians.

ORRA and our members urge your support that any legislation concerning per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works include protections for solid waste collection companies, landfills, and recycling and compost facilities. ORRA members are "passive receivers" of PFAS. Our industry does not produce PFAS containing wastes, but rather has the obligation to manage such wastes for all of the state of Oregon. We request that any federal legislation that creates liability for PFAS, under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) include a narrow exemption for the essential public health services provided every day by our industry.

On April 13, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), issued an Advanced Notice for Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) "Addressing PFAS in the Environment" to collect public input on the Agency's potential to designate additional PFAS compounds as CERCLA Hazardous Substances. EPA has stated that it has insufficient existing legal authority to provide relief to public service providers, like our industry, from the impact of CERCLA contribution litigation.

Please find enclosed a joint letter to U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito.

Thank you for your consideration of this crucial issue for the solid waste industry. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 503-507-8275, or [andrea@orra.net](mailto:andrea@orra.net).

Sincerely,

Andrea J. Fogue  
Governmental Affairs Director

c: Kristan Mitchell, ORRA Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer  
ORRA Steering Committee  
U.S. Senate EPW Committee Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito