

**Testimony of Randy Tucker
In Support of House Bill 3364
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
March 28, 2013**



Chair Witt and members of the Committee:

Metro is the regional government of the Portland metropolitan area, serving a population of 1.5 million people. Our major responsibilities include managing the region's solid waste and recycling system and providing services and educational resources to protect the environment, conserve resources and reduce the toxicity of the solid waste stream.

Among other things, Metro operates an extensive household hazardous waste program with two permanent facilities and over 30 one-day community events at a total cost of over \$5 million annually. Pesticides are some of the most toxic materials we accept from the public for safe disposal, and also the most costly materials to manage. This is just one reason that Metro strongly supports reducing the use of pesticides.

Metro also manages a portfolio of properties that includes developed parks, green spaces, rights-of-way, natural area parks, riparian areas, open water areas, landscaped properties, public gathering places and traditional office buildings. Metro adopted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy for its facilities in 1995 and is currently updating and implementing the policy. Implementing IPM – a proven method of managing pests while reducing reliance on pesticides – is a high priority action in Metro's Sustainability Plan.

Oregon has a history of supporting policies that stimulate widespread adoption of the safest and most ecologically sound toxics reduction programs. In 1991, Oregon was an early adopter of IPM legislation. Metro believes HB 3364 will help renew Oregon's commitment to managing pest problems in a manner that protects public health, native fish and wildlife, watersheds and other aspects of the environment. Provisions in HB 3364 call for the use of techniques that can substantially reduce or eliminate the need for chemical pesticides.

While we recognize this bill applies to state agencies, it will provide models for what local governments, business and residents can do to reduce their use of pesticides. Metro currently promotes IPM to the public through programs that include adult education, natural gardening techniques and instructions on alternatives to pesticides. Metro's work to improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and stormwater management throughout the region will be enhanced by the implementation of HB 3364's approach to IPM.

Metro was very supportive of the IPM for schools bill (SB 637) passed by the 2009 Legislature. HB 3364 expands Oregon's commitment to the Integrated Pest Management approach.

As the elected regional government in the Portland metropolitan area, Metro works with communities, businesses and residents to create a vibrant and sustainable region for all. This bill supports that mission.

Metro urges passage of HB 3364.