



Re: Oregon House Bill 2938

4/15/13

Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program provides hazardous waste collection and waste reduction outreach to households, businesses and farmers of Wasco, Sherman and Hood River Counties. We support HB 2938.

And we wish to proffer two recommendations:

1. Expand the definition of local collection programs to include solid waste transfer stations, and
2. Consider incorporating a more formal "Plan" inclusive of some basic oversight by DEQ.

We collect both rechargeable (and single use) batteries at our hazardous waste collection events at no charge to participants. Collection volumes continue to increase in large part because local citizens enjoy the convenience of handling all of their hazardous waste at one location. Meanwhile, our own budget (i.e., ability to afford collecting these rechargeable batteries) continues to weaken.

Even so, our steadfast objective is to maintain or enhance our ability to collect, while shifting end-of-life management costs towards the manufacturers. Long-standing reputable voluntary collection programs like Call2Recycle have been critical for diverting toxic rechargeable batteries towards recycling for the last twenty years. But we are concerned about the solvency of such voluntary programs. And HB 2938 ensures proper funding by requiring all relevant battery manufacturers selling into Oregon to pay their share for end-of-life management of their unwanted rechargeable batteries.

Thus, we offer our support for HB 2938, and likewise express concern for the future of battery recycling in Oregon if this Amendment does not pass.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. Skakel".

David S. Skakel
Program Coordinator