



**AmericanCoatings**  
ASSOCIATION

**Testimony  
of the  
American Coatings Association  
in Support of  
S.B. 791 and H.B. 2048**

Chair and Members of the Committee – thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill 791/House Bill 2048 – Repealing the Sunset Date on the Architectural Paint Stewardship Program. I am Alison Keane, Vice President for Government Affairs for the American Coatings Association (ACA). ACA is a voluntary, nonprofit trade association working to advance the needs of the paint and coatings industry and the professionals who work in it. The organization represents paint and coatings manufacturers, raw materials suppliers, distributors, and technical professionals. ACA serves as an advocate and ally for members on legislative, regulatory and judicial issues, and provides forums for the advancement and promotion of the industry through educational and professional development services.

ACA and the paint industry are committed to finding a viable solution to the issue of post-consumer paint, which is often the number one product, by volume and cost, coming into Hazardous Household Waste (HHW) programs. As you may be aware, the impetus for the pilot program in Oregon derived from a several year multi-stakeholder dialogue on the issue, entitled the “Paint Product Stewardship Initiative.” ACA, along with various interested stakeholders, including the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and several local governments in OR, including Portland Metro, spent over 5 years discussing the issue and ideas for solutions. In 2007, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the PPSI parties for the express purpose of developing a nationally coordinated system for the management of post-

consumer paint using a product stewardship approach. A product stewardship approach is one where all participants involved in the life cycle of a product take a shared responsibility for its production, sale, use and end-of-life management. While the ultimate goal of the dialogue is a nationally coordinated system, the paint industry needed one state to pilot a program before trying to bring it to all the rest of the Country. That pilot is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year in OR and we are ready to make it permanent.

The program in Oregon is successful by any measure. ACA established a 501(c)(3) organization, called PaintCare to operate the program and in two years, the PaintCare established over 100 collection sites for paint in Oregon, as opposed to its 15 sites pre-program. 75% of these sites are paint retail stores – so consumers and contractors can bring their leftover paint back to the same places they buy paint – 7 days a week, retail hours. 95% of Oregon residents have a permanent collection location within a 15 mile radius. Where no permanent collection location exists – PaintCare has help collection events. For large volume users, such as hospitals, Universities and large contractors – PaintCare has instituted direct pick-ups of leftover paint. In two years of program operations, PaintCare collected over one million gallons of paint, recycling or beneficially reusing 100%. And 107 tons of plastic pails and 131 tons of metal cans have been recycled.

Finally, the program is designed to relieve a considerable financial burden on local governments, who prior to PaintCare shouldered the entire burden for post-consumer paint management. Portland Metro, alone, reports its costs savings due to the PaintCare program is in excess of one million dollars annually.

Since the start of the OR Pilot, ACA has passed permanent legislation instituting the same program in California, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Since the program has proved not only successful, but functioned appropriately using the product stewardship approach, many state and local governments dealing with leftover paint are interested in bringing the program to their state. Thus, the legislation is currently pending in Illinois, Minnesota, Vermont and Texas and bills are likely to be introduced in Maine, New York and New Jersey this year. Success br In addition, the legislation has been passed in California, Connecticut and Rhode Island, with California operations starting in 2012 and Connecticut and Rhode Island starting this year.

Thus, ACA supports this bill as amended and the end of a pilot program and the beginning of a permanent one for Oregon PaintCare.

Thank you.