

**Testimony of Scott Klag, Senior Solid Waste Planner  
In Support of House Bill 2048  
House Committee on Energy and Environment  
March 14, 2013**



Chair Bailey and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2048. Metro strongly supports making the statewide paint stewardship program permanent.

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

Metro conducted its first household hazardous waste (HHW) collection event in 1986. Last year, we provided HHW services to about 55,000 customers at two permanent collection facilities and one-day "roundup" events at an overall cost of approximately \$5 million. Through these services we collected about 4 million pounds of wastes – of which the greatest amount was paint.

Of the more than 609,000 gallons of paint collected across the state in the PaintCare program, about half comes from our three-county area. Metro has been recycling the leftover latex paint brought in by our customers since 1992. Today we produce Green Seal certified, 100% recycled MetroPaint in 18 standard colors, for sale at more than 50 locations around Oregon and Washington. Metro has established a partnership with Miller Paint, which sells a substantial percentage of Metro's recycled paint through their retail stores.

With the advent of the PaintCare program, Metro residents have benefited in significant ways, including:

*Program funding* – Since 1992, Metro has provided environmentally sound paint management services for paint collected in our region. With the creation of the statewide program, a small fee on paint purchases has allowed PaintCare to cover the cost of managing the oil-based paint and recycling the latex paint collected in our region. Participating in the PaintCare program is saving Metro approximately \$1 million annually. This means that purchasers of paint are now covering \$1 million in costs previously borne by regional ratepayers.

*Improved convenience* – PaintCare has significantly improved the convenience of paint disposal for Metro residents by adding 16 retail take-back locations at paint and hardware stores located around the region.

*Improved paint recycling and marketing* – The increased volume of paint now being brought to the MetroPaint facility for recycling from around the state has decreased the per-unit cost of production and enabled us to meet increasing demand. Sales of MetroPaint in calendar 2012 were 48% above what they were the year before PaintCare started (Fiscal Year 2009-10).

*Environmental benefits* – The increased recycling fostered by the PaintCare program is good for the environment. A 2009 study, conducted jointly by the paint industry and government agencies, affirmed that paint recycling – as opposed to simply disposing of the paint – significantly reduces energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions, while also reducing a variety of impacts to human health and the environment.

Over the past four years, Metro has participated in the DEQ stakeholder process to improve implementation of the program. We have also talked with local governments in our region about the program and submitted comments on the 2011 DEQ report to the Legislature on the program. We agreed with the DEQ's recommendations about making the program permanent while improving elements of the program and the legislation. Those recommendations included adding program goals, establishing a definition of collection convenience, improving education and outreach and clarifying reporting requirements. We are pleased that HB 2048 addresses those issues.

HB 2048 will improve and make permanent a very successful and beneficial product stewardship program for paint. Metro urges passage of HB 2048.