

March 14, 2013

The Honorable Jules Bailey, Chair
House Committee on Energy and the Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support for Senate Bill #791 and House Bill #2048 – Repeal of Sunset on
Architectural Paint Stewardship Program

Dear Chair Bailey and Committee Members:

Miller Paint Co., Inc. supports S.B. 791 and H.B. 2048, entitled “Repeal of Sunset on Architectural Paint Stewardship Program.” We are an active and enthusiastic supporter of the PaintCare program here in Oregon. As a Pacific Northwest paint company that has been manufacturing and selling architectural paint in the state of Oregon since 1890, and as proud members of the American Coatings Association (ACA) we have seen the benefit of this program to our Oregon customers. We are proud that our industry has stepped up to develop and implement a cost-effective, efficient, and environmentally-sound program to deal with the issue of excess paint. We have volunteered a large number of our twenty-six (26) Oregon Miller Paint stores to be retail collection sites, and have seamlessly implemented the retail collection process at twelve (12) of those stores across the state.

The program has been successful in Oregon. In two years of operations, the non-profit organization that we created – PaintCare – has increased the number of collection sites to 102 from the 15 available pre-program. The majority of these sites, 75%, 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. Over one million gallons of paint has been collected with 100% of that paint being recycled or beneficially reused. PaintCare has also recycled the paint containers collected, resulting in 107 and 131 tons of plastic and metal cans, respectively, being recycled.

As you are aware, the impetus for the pilot derives from a several year multi-stakeholder Paint Product Stewardship Initiative. The ultimate goal of this initiative is a nationally coordinated system, for the management of unused paint. Since the pilot began in OR almost three years ago, the program has also begun operating in California and will begin operations in Connecticut and Rhode Island this year.

Thus, we support repealing the sunset date on the program and making PaintCare permanent in Oregon. In advance, thank you for your support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Steve Dearborn
CEO & President
Miller Paint Co., Inc.