



ALEX CUYLER

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DATE: March 6, 2017
TO: House Committee on Health Care
RE: HB 2386 and HB 2645, relating to drugs

Chair Greenlick and Committee Members:

In developing Lane County's legislative priorities for the 2017 session, the Board of Commissioners identified drug take back as one of its select priorities.

Lane County supports both of the bills before your Committee designed to better manage "covered" drug disposal. We have found that manufacturer run frameworks implemented via statute for both electronic discards and used paint are working in our community. We look forward to seeing a bill pass this session and urge the Committee to schedule a work session for one of these two measures.

Lane County has several motivations behind our support for drug take back to be more comprehensively implemented in Oregon. Our law enforcement efforts are acutely aware of the growing impact of opioid addiction in our community, and this measure would help to corral any unused opioid prescriptions, thereby lessening the chances that these drugs make it into the black market. Our public health agencies are similarly interested in the measure, as they have helped design, promote, and implement take back events for unused prescription medications. These events are popular, and only represent the tip of the iceberg in terms of what could be captured. Finally, our solid waste management program is also interested, as they are more and more concerned about the proper disposal of landfill leachate, the liquid waste that seeps out of our Short Mountain Landfill. It is now disposed of into the regional wastewater system and is continually monitored for (and charged by) "strength". It is this unit that gets the most community questions about proper disposal.

In 2016, Lane County applied for a DEQ grant to implement additional take back opportunities in Lane and several other counties but due to the fiscal limitations of that particular grant opportunity, we were unsuccessful in that attempt. When we learned of the opportunity to pursue related legislation in this session, the Board of Commissioners was eager to identify drug take back as a priority.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY