



March 6, 2017

Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair
House Committee on Health Care
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

RE: HB 2386 - Relating to drugs; prescribing an effective date.

Dear Chairman Greenlick and members of the committee:

The City of Eugene would like to express our support for HB 2386 toward the creation of a convenient and affordable system for the responsible disposal of unused medications.

With approximately 1/3 of all purchased medicines going unused, there is real concern about the public health, safety and environmental issues caused by this waste. Failure to dispose of unused pharmaceuticals in a timely, safe, and environmentally responsible way can lead to serious health and safety risks including drug abuse, accidental poisonings, water pollution, and damage to aquatic life.

Throughout Eugene and Lane County, few convenient options exist for residents looking to responsibly dispose of their unused medication. Within the county, there are seven municipally-managed disposal kiosks for unused medications, two of which are located in Eugene. All seven kiosks are located at law enforcement stations with only three allowing access after normal business hours. While these kiosks perform a valuable service to our community and environment, the lack of convenience and access to these sites does little to address the scale of the problem.

Our state is no stranger to creating convenient and impactful alternatives to address problems posed by dangerous waste. Our residents benefit from several producer-funded stewardship laws governing the safe disposal of products, including paint and consumer electronics. Furthermore, by prescribing this proven method to deal with harmful waste, this bill supports broader product stewardship efforts underway in Eugene and Lane County in addition to those identified in DEQ's 2050 Vision.

At an estimated expense of 1 penny for every \$10 of a prescription, borne by the companies making sales in Oregon, this presents an affordable approach to a well-known method for responsibly managing dangerous waste.

The key to creating new, beneficial habits regarding waste is to offer people a convenient and affordable alternative. We feel HB 2386 offers this while addressing an underrated waste issue in our community. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Best regards,

Michael Wisth

Waste Prevention & Green Building Analyst