

Tillamook County



Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

Board of Commissioners
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The Tillamook County Board of Commissioners has been asked to share our opinion regarding the legislative initiative for an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for unused pharmaceuticals. Tillamook County supports HB 2465, which establishes a pharmaceutical stewardship program for the State of Oregon, because this bill would require manufacturers to take responsibility for their products when they reach expiration date or when they become waste.


The adoption of a convenient collection system for unused pharmaceuticals, based on this bill, would benefit our community by enabling local pharmacies and community care clinics to participate in the system while expanding opportunities to safely and securely dispose of medicines. Providing residents with opportunities for safe and convenient disposal of unused pharmaceuticals is not only important for public health and safety, but also for environmental concerns. Improper disposal methods pose a threat to both humans and animals through the potential contamination of waterways and water supplies. Unused medicines are also a major source of abuse, as well as unintentional injuries, deaths and poisonings.

Currently, Tillamook County has a system in place for the collection of unused pharmaceuticals at our Sheriff's Department. Although it functions well, the present location of the collection site is not ideal. Our system places a significant burden on the Sheriff's Department, in terms of both budget and staffing to transport the collected drugs to the destruction site. Unfortunately, the county is not in a financial position to expand this system to other locations.

For the above reasons we urge the legislature to pass a Secure Medicine Takeback bill based on the EPR principles found in HB 2465. This bill will enable Oregonians throughout the state to dispose of their unused pharmaceuticals in a safe, secure, and convenient manner through a system that is funded by the producers of those medicines. This legislation will result in a solution to multiple problems, as outlined above, while fitting squarely within the principles of good product stewardship.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON



Bill Baertlein, Chair



Tim Josi, Vice Chair



David Yamamoto, Commissioner