



ASSOCIATION of
OREGON
RECYCLERS

Chair: Pete Chism-Winfield
City of Portland

April 5, 2017

Past Chair: Alison Briggs-Ungerer
Consultant

Secretary: Kristin Leichner
Pride Disposal

House Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 347
Salem, OR 97301

Treasurer: Fred Stemmler
Recology Western Oregon

Conference Chair: Elizabeth Start
SCRAP PDX

Education Chair: Pam Peck
Metro

RE: Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) Support of HB2645 and the -5 amendment

Fundraising Chair: Nick Isbister
City of Gresham

Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee:

Legislative Chair: Justin Gast
The Recycling Partnership

AOR supports HB 2645 and the -5 amendment, the product stewardship bill for responsible management of unused pharmaceutical drugs. The bill is the result of a multi-stakeholder process to establish a secure product stewardship program for pharmaceutical drugs in Oregon.

Marketing Chair: Cheryl Bertges
Oregon Beverage Recycling
Cooperative

Markets Chair: Vinod Singh
Far West Recycling

Approximately a third of all pharmaceutical drugs purchased in the U.S go unused, and current disposal options for them are limited and inconsistent across the state. Many drugs are considered hazardous wastes and end up in the water system. As a result, flushing or landfilling unused pharmaceutical drugs is not an acceptable option for end of life disposal.

Membership Chair: Josy Wright
Waste Connections

The current collection system relies on local governments to provide collection boxes in sheriff's offices or police stations and some pharmacies participate on a voluntary basis. The DEA also sponsors twice-a-year collection events in some areas. Jurisdictions that institute more collection options, see a substantial increase in drugs collected as a result.

Association of Oregon Recyclers
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HB 2645, and -5 amendments, would require pharmaceutical companies selling drugs in Oregon to create a stewardship organization that will collect, transport and dispose of unused pharmaceutical drugs. The organization will develop a state approved plan that meets standards that include convenient, environmentally sound disposal options.

HB 2645 will result in a convenient drug take-back program that will increase public safety and health and environmental quality for Oregonians. AOR urges your support this bill and the -5 amendments.

Sincerely,

Pete Chism-Winfield
Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers