

**Testimony of Jim Quinn and Scott Klag
In Support of House Bill 3105
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
April 10, 2017**



Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

Metro is the regional government of the Portland metropolitan area, with major responsibilities for managing the region's solid waste and providing opportunities for recycling and waste reduction. Metro serves a population of over 1.5 million, providing services and educational resources that protect the environment and reduce the amount and toxicity of the solid waste stream.

In 2015, Metro brought forward the concept of a statewide product stewardship program for household hazardous waste (HHW). An informational hearing was held before this Committee and we were charged with seeking input on the approach from stakeholders. Having conducted a broadly inclusive stakeholder process during the interim, we are here today to present the legislation again, amended to respond to comments and concerns raised by stakeholders.

Household hazardous waste is a term applied to those products many of us have sitting in our garages, basements or other storage areas in need of special handling and disposal. Examples include flammable products including solvents; home and garden products containing herbicides or pesticides; and highly corrosive or reactive products like oven cleaners and pool chemicals. If these products are not properly managed, they pose risks to children from poisonings, to solid waste workers on collection routes and at disposal facilities from chemical reactions or releases, and to the environment from spills or through other pathways.

Metro conducted its first special collection event for HHW in 1986. In the more than thirty years since that event, we have developed a program that includes two permanent facilities and serves more than 55,000 customers a year. However, we believe there is still a lot of HHW not being properly managed.

Under product stewardship, the makers of products share in the responsibility for properly managing their products' leftovers. Product stewardship programs in Oregon for electronic waste and paint have been beneficial. However, we recognize that "one size does not fit all." A stewardship program for HHW will need to reflect the different issues arising from the nature of the products and the industries that manufacture them.

HB 3105 addresses key elements of a statewide product stewardship program for HHW including: identifying what products would be covered; financing the program through cost internalization; setting program convenience and performance requirements; and building on the HHW infrastructure local governments and the state have invested in. Metro's discussions with stakeholders, including representatives from industry, state and local government, the solid waste industry and public interest groups, helped us better understand stakeholder issues and develop amendments to the original bill. These amendments include clarifying what products will not be covered (e.g., commercial pesticides; products already covered by stewardship programs for e-waste and paint) and phasing in the program over three years.

Metro believes HB 3105 will benefit all the citizens of Oregon. We urge you to move it forward.