

# Health Department

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April 10, 2017

House Committee on Energy and Environment  
900 Court St. NE - HR D  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 3105 - Establishes a product stewardship program for household hazardous waste

Chair Helm and members of the Committee; I am Dr. Jae Douglas, Director of Environmental Health Services of the Multnomah County Health Department. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 3105, which establishes a product stewardship program for household hazardous waste.

Nationally, product stewardship programs in 33 states are vitally important to efforts to carefully and appropriately dispose of a variety of products containing hazardous materials such as batteries, mercury thermostats and pharmaceuticals.<sup>1</sup> Here in Oregon, we have mandatory stewardship programs for paint and electronics in most areas, including Multnomah County. These programs prevent hazardous materials from entering the solid waste stream where they may present significant risk to human health and the environment<sup>2345</sup>.

We support the proposal to charge fees of producers commensurate with the amount of hazardous waste contained in household products being produced and sold in the state. This type of fee encourages producers to determine and substitute alternative, less toxic materials, which motivates long-term reductions in the amount of hazardous wastes that need to be processed.

This legislation would shift the responsibility of environmentally sound disposal of household hazardous waste to producers of those products, increase transparency of toxic materials being produced and sold, and ultimately encourage the substitution of

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.productstewardship.us/?State\\_EPR\\_Laws\\_Map](http://www.productstewardship.us/?State_EPR_Laws_Map)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9119332>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2873021/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.paintcare.org/paintcare-states/oregon/#/everyone>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/pubs/docs/sw/WPSBkgdAll.pdf>

alternative less toxic materials in products, reducing the potential of negative environmental and health impacts.

It is our job at Multnomah County Health Department to protect and promote the health of our community: We need to assure that individuals, families and communities gain greater control over the factors that influence their health. As Environmental Health Director for Multnomah County Health Department, I am proud to stand with the advocates on this important legislation that would implement crucial steps to create a healthier Oregon for future generations.

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