



## ALEX CUYLER

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DATE: February 16, 2017  
TO: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
RE: SB 199, relating to household hazardous waste

Chair Senator Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

Lane County's Waste Management Division (Public Works Department) has long been an innovator when it comes to managing so-termed "special wastes". For example, before computers and televisions were products covered by a legislatively constructed product stewardship framework, Lane County was hosting one day collection events and then evolved that program into a regular element of its household hazardous waste collection program and facility.

Thus, we are in support of a similar framework for household hazardous waste, as envisioned by SB 199.

The disposal of discards in Oregon is ultimately managed by counties. While some landfills or incinerators are owned and operated by private entities, the fee structure for these disposal sites is a county function, and each resident of Oregon ultimately pays for a county managed solid waste system. Part of that cost includes the operation, closure, and post-closure maintenance of landfill facilities. Prior to the development of the existing product stewardship frameworks for consumer electronics and paint, a manufacturer largely did not have to contemplate issues related to the disposal of their products.

Bills like SB 199 ensure that manufacturers bear at least part of the responsibility for the impacts that their products generate when disposed of. Not only does a cost shift occur, but importantly signals are sent to product designers that have never been sent before. In the case of household hazardous wastes, if a product manufacturer includes some kind of toxic element within their product that drives up the cost of disposal for the manufacturer, the chances are good that alternate materials may be considered further "upstream", into the product design realm.

Whether Oregon is a large enough marketplace to actually influence that design realm is a question that the Committee should explore. In the case of paint and electronics, Oregon was not alone in passing legislation to seek more producer responsibilities and could relatively easily plug into work that was already on-going. In the case of certain hazardous materials, the battery industry and the thermostat industry are already engaged, and certain consumer product companies, such as SC Johnson, have long established efforts such as "design for environment" programs.

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