

**Testimony of Jim Quinn and Scott Klag
On Senate Bill 199
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
February 16, 2017**



Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

Metro is the regional government of the Portland metropolitan area, with major responsibilities in managing and reducing the region's solid waste and protecting and overseeing a regional system of parks and natural areas. 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. An informational hearing was held in the House and we were charged with seeking input on the approach from stakeholders. We are here today to present the legislation again and report on several issues and comments raised by stakeholders.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) 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 of HHW 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 nearly 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 taking responsibility for 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.

SB 199 addresses key elements of a statewide product stewardship 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 convened a group of stakeholders including representative from industry, state and local government, the solid waste industry and public interest groups to discuss the bill's provisions. Those discussions helped us better understand stakeholder issues and concerns and resulted in some changes to the proposal.

Metro believes SB 199 will benefit all the citizens of Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.