

Tillamook County



Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

Board of Commissioners
Tim Josi, David Yamamoto, Bill Baertlein
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February 7, 2018

Re: House Bill 4126: Extended Producer Responsibility Program for Household Hazardous Waste

To Whom It May Concern:

The Tillamook County Board of Commissioners has been asked to share our opinion regarding a legislative initiative for an extended producer responsibility program for household hazardous waste (EPR for HHW).

Providing residents with opportunities for the safe and convenient disposal of hazardous materials is important for both public health and safety, but also for environmental concerns. Improper disposal methods pose a threat to both humans and animals through the potential contamination of waterways and water supplies. Tillamook County is home to the first permanent hazardous waste collection facility on the Oregon Coast. Since October 2011, we have provided local residents with a convenient opportunity to dispose of hazardous materials from their homes. Although we may only have a population of about 27,000, we have accepted over 600,000 pounds of hazardous waste from over 5,700 coastal residents.

Our program is a success, but we have only been able to maintain this level of service to the community thanks in part to EPR programs, such as the Oregon E-Cycles and the paint stewardship program. Without such programs, the increase in costs due to increased quantities would have forced us to cut back on services, which would result in a decrease of materials being disposed of properly. EPR systems require manufacturers to take responsibility for their products at the end of their lives, or when they become waste, and are consistent with the cradle-to-grave, and sometimes even the cradle-to-cradle concepts.

HB 4126 offers an outline for an EPR system that fits squarely within the principles of good product stewardship. The requirement that manufacturers of hazardous products found in the homes of consumers throughout the state assume responsibility for their products at end-of-life would enable programs such as ours to continue offering quality and convenient service to residents, benefitting local communities and the environment.

For the above reasons we urge the legislature to pass an EPR for HHW bill, based on the principles of extended producer responsibility found in HB 4126, and enable Oregonians throughout the State to dispose of their household hazardous waste in a safe, secure, and convenient manner, funded by the producers of those products. This legislation will result in a solution to multiple problems, as outlined above.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON

A blue ink signature of Tim Josi, written in a cursive style.

Tim Josi, Chair

A blue ink signature of David Yamamoto, written in a cursive style.

David Yamamoto, Vice Chair

A blue ink signature of Bill Baertlein, written in a cursive style.

Bill Baertlein, Commissioner

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER