



February 6, 2018

RE: Support for HB 4126

Dear Chair Helm and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering support for HB 4126, creating a statewide product stewardship program for household hazardous wastes.

Many Oregonians often find ourselves holding on to these common home and garden products in our garage or basement because we don't know how to safely dispose of them. We know that if they are not properly disposed of or managed, they pose risks to the environment from spills or through other pathways.

The waste can harm humans, animals, and plants if they encounter these toxins buried in the ground, in stream runoff, in groundwater that supplies drinking water, or in floodwaters, as happened after Hurricane Katrina. Some toxins, such as mercury, persist in the environment and accumulate. Humans or animals often absorb them when they eat fish.

We applaud you for considering this important legislation and urge you to pass it.

Sincerely,

Paige Spence
Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Celeste Meiffren-Swango
Environment Oregon

Rhett Lawrence
Oregon Chapter Sierra Club