



January 31, 2019

Representative Ken Helm, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, H-490
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2772, Establishes product stewardship program for household hazardous waste

Dear Chairman Helm and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of HB 2772, which would establish a statewide, household hazardous waste (HHW) stewardship program in Oregon, managed and sustainably funded by manufacturers.

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) is a national organization committed to reducing the health, safety, and environmental impacts of consumer products with a strong focus on sustainable end-of-life management. With members from 47 state environmental agencies and hundreds of local governments, as well as 120 corporate, academic, non-U.S. government, and organizational partners, we work to promote product stewardship initiatives across North America.

HHW products that are toxic, corrosive, flammable, and chemically reactive pose human health and environmental risks when stored in residential basements and garages, or improperly disposed. These products, which include cleaners, varnish and paint removers, and pool chemicals, are also a significant cost for local governments to manage. Although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets stringent requirements for hazardous waste generated by businesses, it does not regulate similar wastes generated in the home and does not prohibit trash disposal of HHW. Residents, therefore, often unknowingly put HHW in the trash. In many communities, where there is a lack of collection facilities or events, or inconsistent HHW collection services due to the limited resources of local governments, significant quantities of these materials end up being improperly disposed.

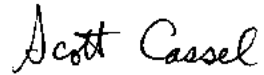
HB 2772 will improve collection convenience, increase the quantity of wastes collected and properly managed, and significantly reduce the financial burden on local governments. The Oregon legislature and the Department of Environmental Quality already have experience passing and implementing programs for used paint and electronics, which are both based on the same principle of extended producer responsibility that is the basis for HB 2772. In addition, similar programs have been operating successfully in Canada since the 1990s.

**Product Stewardship Institute, Inc. | 29 Stanhope Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02116
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We urge you to support the passage of HB 2772 and require those companies that profit from the sale of these products to help reduce the tremendous financial burden placed on local governments for safely managing them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Cassel". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Scott Cassel
Chief Executive Officer / Founder