

Tillamook County



Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

Board of Commissioners
David Yamamoto, Bill Baertlein, Mary Faith Bell
201 Laurel Avenue
Tillamook, Oregon 97141
Phone 503-842-3403
Fax 503-842-1384
TTY Oregon Relay Service

February 27, 2019

Re: House Bill 2772: Product Stewardship 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 a product stewardship, or 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 and 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 residents with a convenient opportunity to dispose of hazardous materials from their homes. Although we may have a population of approximately 27,000, we have accepted nearly 750,000 pounds of hazardous waste from over 6,750 coastal residents.

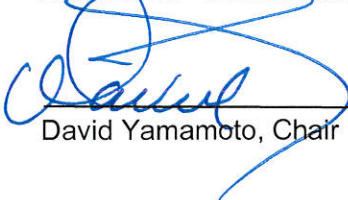
Our program is a success, but we have only been able to maintain this level of service to the community thanks in part to EPR programs, such as the Oregon E-Cycles and the paint stewardship program. Without such programs, the rise in costs due to increased quantities would have forced us to cut back on services, which would mean a decrease of materials being correctly disposed. 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 2772 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.

We urge the legislature to pass a Product Stewardship for Household Hazardous Waste bill, based on the principles of extended producer responsibility found in HB 2772. This will enable Oregonians throughout the state to dispose of their household hazardous waste in a safe, secure, and convenient manner. Funding by the producers of those products as envisioned by this legislation will result in a fiscally responsible solution to multiple problems, as outlined above.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON


David Yamamoto, Chair


Bill Baertlein, Vice-Chair


Mary Faith Bell, Commissioner