



ALEX CUYLER

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DATE: March 21, 2019
TO: House Committee on Health Care
RE: HB 3273, relating to drugs

Chair Salinas and Committee Members:

In developing Lane County's legislative priorities for the 2019 session, the Board of Commissioners identified drug take back as one of its select priorities. Lane County supports HB 3273 as introduced and is aware that conversations continue to evolve on how to improve the measure through a conceptual amendment.

We have found that manufacturer run frameworks implemented via statute for both electronic discards and used paint are working in our community and are looking towards similar success with drug take back. We would like to see the list of "covered" drugs be as comprehensive as possible such that community confusion is minimized.

Lane County has several motivations behind our support for drug take back to be more comprehensively implemented in Oregon. Our law enforcement efforts are acutely aware of the growing impact of opioid addiction in our community, and this measure would help to corral any unused opioid prescriptions, thereby lessening the chances that these drugs make it into the black market. Our public health agencies are similarly interested in the measure, as they have helped design, promote, and implement take back events for unused prescription medications. These events are popular, and only represent the tip of the iceberg in terms of what could be captured. Finally, our solid waste management program is also interested, as they are more and more concerned about the proper disposal of landfill leachate, the liquid waste that seeps out of our Short Mountain Landfill. It is now disposed of into the regional wastewater system and is continually monitored for (and charged by) "strength". It is this unit that gets the most community questions about proper disposal.

Lane County does note that today's hearing on drug take back legislation marks the latest iteration of related proposals dating back to at least 2007. Prior to the 2017 effort, Lane County discussed simply "going it alone" and developing a county ordinance to address this issue. It was my personal recommendation that Lane County wait and see what could occur in 2019 because a patchwork of local ordinances does not always work well for industry. We hope the Committee can indeed find a middle ground during this session and stand ready to assist if needed in those conversations.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY