

June 11, 2019

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Briggs-Ungerer Consulting,
LLC

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To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Re: HB 3273 – Drug Take Back Program - **Support**

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 347
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Holvey, Taylor, and Members of the Committee:

AOR supports HB 3273, the product stewardship bill for responsible management of unused pharmaceutical drugs. The bill is the result of a multi-stakeholder process to establish a secure product stewardship program for pharmaceutical drugs in Oregon.

Approximately a third of all pharmaceutical drugs purchased in the U.S go unused, and current disposal options for them are limited and inconsistent across the state. Many drugs are considered hazardous wastes and end up in the water system. As a result, flushing or landfilling unused pharmaceutical drugs is not an acceptable option for end of life disposal.

The current collection system relies on local governments to provide collection boxes in sheriff's offices or police stations and some pharmacies participate on a voluntary basis. The DEA also sponsors twice-a-year collection events in some areas. Jurisdictions that institute more collection options, see a substantial increase in drugs collected as a result.

HB 3273, would require pharmaceutical companies selling drugs in Oregon to create a stewardship organization that will collect, transport and dispose of unused pharmaceutical drugs. The organization will develop a state approved plan that meets standards that include convenient, environmentally sound disposal options.

HB 3273 will result in a convenient drug take-back program that will increase public safety and health and environmental quality for Oregonians. AOR urges your support the bill and pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Alison Briggs-Ungerer
Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers