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February 10, 2021

House Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2955 – Support

Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee:

The Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) is committed to supporting policies that promote high-quality recycling and composting, thoughtful consumption, and producer responsibility. We believe the producers that manufacture and sell products to Oregonians should have a role in how products are managed at the end of their usable life. Equity is also centered in our guiding principles because we believe the reuse, repair and recycling economy should benefit everyone, including communities of color and rural areas. Our principles around equity and the environment are why *AOR supports HB 2955 and believes it is a critical piece of legislation in the 2021 legislative session.*

AOR supports HB 2955 which would establish a product stewardship program for household hazardous wastes. Household hazardous wastes come in many forms and are attributed to harmful effects on human health and the environment. These materials are expensive to manage and can be harmful to our most vulnerable residents, children, and to workers who collect and handle solid waste.

When not managed properly, household hazardous wastes can pollute our water and air. HB 2955 will result in more convenient household hazardous waste collection programs that will increase public safety and health and environmental quality for Oregonians. AOR sees producer responsibility as a key aspect of sustainable materials management. Existing collection programs are not getting all these hazardous materials out of the waste stream. More efforts are needed and having producers contribute to solving the problem is essential. AOR urges your support for this important piece of legislation, please pass HB 2955.

Sincerely,

Kristin Leichner  
Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers

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