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February 21, 2023

Senator Deb Patterson, Chair
Senator Cedric Hayden, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, HR B
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 411, Relating to the disposal of covered drugs at incinerators subject to federal requirements.

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee:

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) **supports SB 411**, which adds certain hospital, medical, and infectious waste incinerators to the list of facilities at which covered drugs under drug takeback program may be disposed.

PSI supports the inclusion of federally regulated medical waste incineration facilities in Oregon’s drug disposal program. These facilities provide incineration service options in other state drug take-back programs, providing additional competition that can potentially lower drug disposal costs. PSI is also aware that incineration facilities in the region are experiencing a backlog of material to be processed due to the Covid pandemic impacts, increased demand and other factors. Including these facilities ensures that programs can work as efficiently as possible.

PSI is a national nonprofit dedicated to reducing the health and environmental impacts of consumer products, including pharmaceuticals. We have 47 state government agency members and hundreds of local government members nationwide. PSI also collaborates closely with 120 partners, including companies that collect and safely destroy waste pharmaceuticals. PSI has been working to advance solutions for drug disposal for the past 15 years, including helping to change policy through the federal Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010 and subsequent Drug Enforcement Administration regulations in 2014, allowing retail pharmacies to be authorized collectors of controlled substances.

If you have questions about drug stewardship policy or producer responsibility, please contact me at (617) 513-3954 or scott@productstewardship.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Scott Cassel'.

Scott Cassel
Chief Executive Officer / Founder