



February 12, 2018

Representative Helm, Chair  
House Committee on Energy and Environment

**HB 4126**

Establishing Extended Producer Responsibility Program for Household Hazardous Waste

Chair Helm,

Thank you for holding a public hearing on this important issue. We appreciate the leadership that you have shown. Wasco County strongly supports the concept that companies should share in the responsibility for safe management of unwanted household hazardous waste.

1. Local governments in Oregon have proven to be efficient, resourceful, and innovative in handling hazardous waste. We partner with DEQ, several surrounding counties, and with stewardship organizations to offer expanded collection at lower cost. But we can't afford the full cost for proper disposal (we recycle 75% +/- of the hazardous wastes we collect).
2. This is an issue of urgency. Our program collects over 200,000 pounds of hazardous waste annually within three rural counties. Counties up river from us have no regular hazardous waste collection. This is a combined issue of watershed and human health.
3. This is an issue of shared responsibility. Manufacturers are accustomed to accepting a small portion of the end-of-life management costs for their products. They do so in Canada, in Europe, and in most states in the U.S. for various products. Oregon already utilizes extended producer responsibility to partner with the paint and electronic industries. Fairness and shared responsibility were identified in DEQ's *Recommendations for Product Stewardship in Oregon* report (November 2010).



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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The public hearing was an important first step and we urge you to schedule a work session to keep this concept alive. We believe that there will be strong bi-partisan support for either of these bills.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Kramer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Kramer, Chair  
Wasco County Board of Commissioners