

# Health Department

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February 12, 2018

House Committee On Energy and Environment  
900 Court St. NE - HR D  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 4126 - Establishes a product stewardship program for household hazardous waste

Chair Helm and members of the Committee; I am Dr. Jae Douglas, Director of Environmental Health Services of the Multnomah County Health Department. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 4126, which establishes a convenient statewide product stewardship program for household hazardous waste.

Nationally, product stewardship programs in 33 states are vitally important to efforts to carefully and appropriately dispose of a variety of products containing hazardous materials.<sup>1</sup> Here in Oregon, we have mandatory stewardship programs for paint and electronics in most areas, including Multnomah County. These programs prevent hazardous materials from entering the solid waste stream where they may present significant risk to human health and the environment<sup>2345</sup>.

We support the proposal that any manufacturer that offers products for sale in Oregon take responsibility for developing, financing and implementing a convenient statewide system for the collection and environmentally sound management of household hazardous waste, such as pesticides, fertilizers, and cleaners.

This legislation would shift the responsibility of environmentally sound disposal of household hazardous waste to producers of those products, and encourage the reuse

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<sup>1</sup> Product Stewardship Institute. State of U.S. EPR Laws. Accessed on 2/12/18 at [http://www.productstewardship.us/?State\\_EPR\\_Laws\\_Map](http://www.productstewardship.us/?State_EPR_Laws_Map)

<sup>2</sup> Fay RM., Mumtaz MM. (1996). Development of a priority list of chemical mixtures occurring at 1188 hazardous waste sites, using the HazDat database. *Food Chem Toxicol*, 34(11-12):1163-5. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9119332>

<sup>3</sup> Thompson, R. C., Moore, C. J., vom Saal, F. S., & Swan, S. H. (2009). Plastics, the environment and human health: current consensus and future trends. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 364(1526), 2153–2166. <http://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2009.0053>

<sup>4</sup> PaintCare. Drop-Off Sites. Accessed on 2/12/18 at <https://www.paintcare.org/paintcare-states/oregon/#/everyone>

<sup>5</sup> Boudouris, Abby. (2010). Recommendations for Product Stewardship in Oregon. *State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality*. Accessed on 2/12/18 at <http://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/prodstewRecProdStew.pdf>

of toxic materials being produced and sold, reducing the potential of negative environmental and health impacts of these common household products.

It is our job at Multnomah County Health Department to protect and promote the health of our community: We need to assure that individuals, families and communities gain greater control over the factors that influence their health. As Environmental Health Director for Multnomah County Health Department, I am proud to stand with the advocates on this important legislation that would implement crucial steps to create a healthier Oregon for future generations.

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