



March 16, 2017

Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair  
House Committee on Health Care

RE: HB 2386 and HB 2645, Establishing a Drug Take-Back Program

Chair Greenlick,

Thank you for holding a public hearing on this important issue. We appreciate the leadership that you and Representative Malstrom have shown on this issue. Wasco County strongly supports the concept that pharmaceutical companies should be responsible for establishing a secure medicine take back program.

1. This is an issue of urgency for our law enforcement officers. Fatal drug overdoses have more than doubled since 1999. Convenient and affordable collection of unwanted medicine plays a vital role in hindering accidental overdoses and deaths. Senior living Centers flush unwanted medicines down the toilet in our area, as we are not allowed to collect from them. This is an issue of human health.
2. Federal (TSCA) rules preclude us from collecting controlled substances without involvement of law enforcement. Our police support a solution, but do not have time to be tasked with collecting unwanted medicines. Meanwhile, pharmacies have been generally supportive of providing their optimal collection sites, but they understandably do not want to pay the disposal costs.
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 pharmacies and pharmaceutical 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 'Rod Runyon'.

Rod Runyon, Chair

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

Scott Hege

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Kramer'.

Steve Kramer

Wasco County Board of Commissioners

Cc:

Representative Tina Kotek, Speaker of the House (or House Speaker Tina Kotek)

Representative Malstrom

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment