



NORTHWEST CENTER FOR
ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES

January 30, 2018

Support for HB 4126—Product Stewardship for Household Hazardous Waste

Chair Helm and Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee,

Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) strongly supports HB 4126 establishing a statewide product stewardship program for Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW). The program will provide increased opportunities for Oregonians to safely dispose of pesticides and other hazardous products in an environmentally sound manner.

NCAP is a regional nonprofit based in Eugene, Oregon. We have worked for 40 years to reduce pesticides, especially in environments where vulnerable populations, such as school children and urban residents, are at increased risk of exposure. We focus on educating the public about pesticides and their impacts, developing and implementing effective policies and alternatives to pesticides, and involving people at all levels in actions that produce real change.

Many products used in and around the home, including pesticides, need special handling when disposed. Improper disposal can pose risks to people, wildlife and the environment. Without proper disposal options, pesticides and hazardous products can end up exposing our children, our pets and our waste collection workers. Additionally, keeping pesticides out of our waterways where they can contaminate drinking water and jeopardize endangered salmon species is of paramount importance to our organization.

Government services for managing and safely disposing of HHW are essential, but local government should not be solely responsible for the cost. Many communities do not have the means to develop and implement the necessary services. Requiring manufacturers to take responsibility for some of the costs gives all Oregonians the opportunity to keep hazardous materials out of the landfill and into proper hands.

Oregon is a leader in establishing programs where producers take responsibility for the management of the end-of-life of their products. These include the Oregon E-Cycles program to manage electronic wastes, PaintCare to collect and recycle paint and our recently expanded Bottle Bill. By building on an already existing, local HHW infrastructure, local governments can continue to operate and manage their collections sites. Stewards of the newly covered products will work with local programs to ensure the environmentally sound collection and management of all products containing HHW.

We strongly urge your support for HB 4126 to help eliminate dangerous HHW from our homes and reduce the rates of toxic exposure and danger to those who handle our waste. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Healthy Wildlife & Water Program Director

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