



June 11, 2019

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
HB 3273: Related to Drug Take-back Programs**

Clackamas County supports HB 3273: The Board of County Commissioners supports the creation of drug take-back programs in Oregon.

Drug take-back programs meet two strategic goals for Clackamas County: to ensure a safe, healthy, and secure community; and to honor, utilize, promote, and invest in our natural resources. Unsafe disposal of prescription drugs is a significant public health and safety concern, as well as a detriment to water that flows through our communities.

Older adults can take upwards of 13 prescription drugs each year. When prescription dosages change, older adults can be left with medications they no longer need. Safe, secure ways to dispose of unneeded medications ensures those unneeded medications are not put into the waste stream or used by family members inappropriately. Further, increased access to disposal facilities or sites will ensure a reduction of the illegal use and reselling of prescription drugs.

Without dedicated sites receiving medications, unused and unwanted prescription drugs are often disposed of either by flushing into the waste system or simply throwing them in the garbage. Currently, pharmaceuticals are unregulated in the wastewater treatment industry, which – for Clackamas County – results in “pass through” to the Willamette, Clackamas, and Sandy Rivers, or into bio-solids that are transported to Eastern Oregon.

We urge a “YES” vote on HB 3273.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.