



February 9, 2021

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair
Representative Ken Helm, Vice-Chair
Representative David Brock Smith, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, H-490
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2955, Product stewardship program for household hazardous waste

Dear Chairman Marsh, Vice-Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of HB 2955, which would establish a statewide, household hazardous waste (HHW) stewardship program in Oregon, managed and sustainably funded by manufacturers.

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) is a national organization committed to reducing the health, safety, and environmental impacts of consumer products with a strong focus on sustainable end-of-life management. With members from 47 state environmental agencies and hundreds of local governments, as well as 120 corporate, academic, non-U.S. government, and organizational partners, we work to promote product stewardship initiatives across North America.

HHW products that are toxic, corrosive, flammable, and chemically reactive pose human health and environmental risks when stored in residential basements and garages, or improperly disposed. These products, which include cleaners, varnish, paint removers, and pool chemicals, are also a significant cost for local governments to manage. Although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets stringent requirements for hazardous waste generated by businesses, it does not regulate similar wastes generated in the home and does not prohibit trash disposal of HHW. Residents, therefore, often unknowingly put HHW in the trash. In many communities, where there is a lack of collection facilities or events, or inconsistent HHW collection services due to the limited resources of local governments, significant quantities of these materials end up being improperly disposed.

HB 2955 will improve collection convenience, increase the quantity of wastes collected and properly managed, and significantly reduce the financial burden on local governments. The Oregon legislature and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) already have

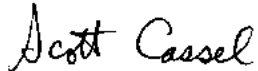
Product Stewardship Institute, Inc. | 29 Stanhope Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02116
tel. 617.236.4855 | www.productstewardship.us | [@productsteward](https://twitter.com/productsteward)
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experience passing and implementing programs for leftover paint and used electronics, and most recently passed a pharmaceuticals stewardship law, which are established on the same principle of extended producer responsibility that is the basis for HB 2955. In addition, similar programs have been operating successfully in Canada since the 1990s. PSI has worked closely with DEQ, Metro, and others in Oregon on each of these bills, as well as HB 2955.

We urge you to support the passage of HB 2955 and require those companies that profit from the sale of these products to help reduce the tremendous financial burden placed on local governments for safely managing them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Cassel". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Scott Cassel

Chief Executive Officer / Founder

Cc: Representative McLain
Representative Campos