



BRING

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BRINGrecycling.org

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

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to offer BRING Recycling's support for House Bill 2955, which establishes a statewide household hazardous waste (HHW) stewardship program in Oregon. A HHW stewardship program, paid for by those that profit from the sales of these products, is critical to protecting the environmental quality Oregonians are justly proud of.

BRING has helped our community develop new and effective solutions to waste and pollution for nearly 50 years. We believe that Product Stewardship Programs, such as HB 2955, are a key action to help our communities reduce waste, protect human and environmental health, and are an effective tool for encouraging manufacturers to design products in a way that makes them better, less toxic, and easier to manage at the end of their useful life.

HHW products that are toxic, corrosive, flammable, and chemically reactive pose risks to human health and the environment. These products include household cleaners, weed and pest control chemicals, and solvents. When stored in homes these products can be accessed by young children. In 2017 alone, there were over 2 million accidental poisonings related to common household products, including cleaners, and over 99% of those poisonings occurred in children under the age of 6. When disposed of, these products are often placed in the trash, washed down the drain, or in some cases, illegally dumped. In many communities there is a lack of HHW collection sites or services because the cost of these programs falls to local governments with limited resources.

HB 2955 will improve collection convenience and increase the quantity of HHW collected, thereby reducing unintended exposure and harm to Oregonians and financial impacts to local governments.

The Oregon legislature and the Department of Environmental Quality have successfully passed and implemented product stewardship programs for used paint and electronics. HB 2955 will be similar in nature. BRING, along with dozens of supporters, urge you to support the passage of HB 2955.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Stein
Executive Director