

February 10, 2021

To: Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: **Support for HB 2955**, Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Product Stewardship

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Helm and Brock Smith, and members of the Committee

This is my first testimony for a bill in 2021! After years of attending household hazardous waste task force meetings, visiting Metro's hazardous waste facility, and helping craft former versions of this bill (HB 3105 in 2017, HB 4126 in 2018, HB 2772 in 2019), I am delighted that it is back on the agenda.

For the sake of all people and animals who live in Oregon's environment, for rural Oregonians who have little access to hazardous waste prevention and disposal programs, and for taxpayers and consumers who currently pay a disproportionate share of the cost of managing household hazardous waste, I encourage you to pass HB 2955 and ensure its passage by the Legislature.

- State and local governments (through their taxes) and solid waste rate payers currently bear the cost of safely managing and disposing HHW and have done so for decades. Manufacturers should take responsibility for the hazardous products they sell.
- HB 2955 will add resources to local programs that would otherwise have to increase fees to all rate payers, and to counties to avoid cutting other services to provide HHW services.
- Manufacturers selling their products in Oregon will be required to belong to a stewardship organization, who will submit a plan describing how they will work with local governments to collect and properly manage wastes from their products – while ensuring access to these services all across the state.
- No fee will be collected from the consumer at the point of sale. By incorporating their program expenses into their overall cost structure, manufacturers will be incentivized to design and produce their products in a way that minimizes waste, environmental impacts, and end-of-life management costs of their products.
- Once DEQ uses other funds to establish the program, manufacturers' fees will cover the ongoing cost. No General Funds are needed, and only position authority is needed.

This program will protect public health and environmental quality by responsibly collecting, handling, and disposing hazardous materials, while saving tax payers and rate payers the costs that manufacturers should bear as part of the cost of business.

Sincerely,

Alissa Keny-Guyer, former State Representative HD 46