

February 27, 2023

House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment  
900 Court Street  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: Support for HB 3273 – Phasing Out Toxic Dry Cleaning Solvents**

Chair Pam Marsh, Vice-Chairs Bobby Levy and Emerson Levy, Members of the Committee,

Metro in support of HB 3273.

Metro is responsible for overall solid waste planning and management in the Portland Metropolitan region. Metro develops and administers the Regional Waste Plan and shares responsibility with cities and counties for implementing the plan's actions. In addition to our programmatic and regulatory work to reduce the impacts of products and their waste, Metro operates two full-service waste transfer stations and provides disposal services for hazardous waste.

Metro vision is to reduce the environmental impacts and reduce the amount of waste and toxicity of the solid waste stream. Metro measures the quality of our environment in three areas: the cleanliness of the air we breathe, our mitigation of noxious components of the built environment, and our efforts to keep waterways and natural spaces protected and healthy for our growing population.

Banning perchloroethylene (perc) and other harmful dry-cleaning solvents under HB 3273 would hit the marks in all of these areas:

**Hazardous Waste Reduction.** Intervening upstream and banning these harmful chemicals has a larger impact on human health and the environment than properly disposing of these products. Hazardous waste from a perc dry cleaning machine includes sludge containing perc, filters containing perc, lint, perc separator water collected in a bucket, perc separator water piped directly to an evaporator. Toxic lint and filters containing perc may be improperly disposed of in our landfills and have negative impacts on our workers, community members and the environment around landfills. Most non-perc solvents are less toxic and considered non-hazardous solid waste that can be put in the trash.

**Air Pollution Reduction.** Perc alternatives have less impacts on air quality. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classifies perc as a potential carcinogen. Perc vapors are most easily taken in via inhalation and can impact the liver and kidneys. Perc vapors have also been found to contaminate drinking water.

**Impacts on Land and the Built Environment.** Perc alternatives have less potential to continually contaminate the land after a dry cleaner relocates or closes, and would reduce the number of toxic materials leaching into the ground water. Right now, dry cleaners using perc are creating brownfields when they close or relocate.

For these reasons, we urge your support on HB 3273.

Sincerely,

Jenna Jones  
State and Regional Affairs Advisor  
Metro