

March 24, 2025

Chair Taylor and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Maia Shideler, and I am a law student at Lewis & Clark Law School and an environmental advocate with the Northwest Environmental Defense Center. I am writing today in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 1020, the Inhalant Delivery System Producer Responsibility Act.

As someone who taught teenagers for many years before law school, I'm aware firsthand how prevalent vaping is among our community's youth. Beyond the health and social effects of vape usage, I have serious concerns about the physical remnants left behind in our classrooms, on school sidewalks, and in our landfills.

Electronic cigarettes, or vapes, contain lithium-ion batteries, heavy metals, and plastic components that contaminate landfills, pollute waterways, and litter our streets. Right now, the responsibility for cleaning up this waste falls on local governments, taxpayers, and even schools—many of which are already underfunded. But why should students and their teachers be forced to deal with and bear the costs of waste created by corporations?

At the same time, Big Tobacco and vape companies have long targeted communities of color and low-income populations through advertising and product placement. Black, Latino, and Indigenous youth face higher rates of nicotine addiction and are disproportionately exposed to vape waste in their schools and neighborhoods.

SB 1020 is a fair, commonsense solution that shifts responsibility to where it belongs—on the companies profiting from these products. By requiring manufacturers to join a Producer Responsibility Organization (“PRO”) and implementing a refundable \$5 deposit, this bill will help ensure proper collection, recycling, and disposal of hazardous vape waste. This model follows the success of Oregon’s Bottle Bill, which has led to one of the highest recycling rates in the country.

If passed, SB 1020 will help not only to regulate the habits and health of the teenage population, but also hold predatory corporations accountable for the damage they cause. Oregon has long been a leader in environmental stewardship, and this bill reaffirms our commitment to protecting our communities from pollution.

I strongly urge you to vote YES on SB 1020 to protect our environment, hold corporations accountable, and ensure that these corporation’s victims no longer have to bear the burden of vape waste.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Maia Shideler