



March 25, 2025

SB 1020 - Vape Cartridge Stewardship – Oppose for now

Chair Taylor and members of the committee: my name is Sarah Lochner. I'm the Executive Director of the Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO for short), representing Oregon's 33 local public health departments.

While CLHO loves environmental stewardship and would normally be supportive of such an effort as outlined in SB 1020, unfortunately, the timing of this bill is off.

As you may know, anti-tobacco advocates including CLHO have been working very hard for the last four years to ban flavored tobacco products in Oregon, including and especially vapes. This session, SB 702 is the vehicle and Sen. Reynolds is our champion.

We believe this stewardship bill would likely not be needed if we just passed SB 702. So CLHO respectfully requests that the legislature first pass SB 702 and **then see** if we still have a vape cartridge recycling need. We predict vaping to decrease dramatically if tasty flavors are no longer available.

In addition, we fear that SB 1020 is a distraction from the evidenced-based policy that needs to happen per SB 702.

I am quite certain that the proponents of this bill are well-intentioned, however, we respectfully request that you pause efforts on SB 1020 and we all focus our energy on passing and implementing SB 702 – which will make a REAL difference in the short-term and lifetime health of today's youth by helping them to break free of their vape addictions and for others, to not start vaping in the first place. And it would improve health inequities across our BIPOC communities.

Thank you for consideration.

