

March 25, 2025

Chair Taylor and Members of the Committee,

I am an Oregon resident and a parent. I am writing today in strong support of SB 1020, the Inhalant Delivery System Producer Responsibility Act.

As an Oregon resident, I am aware how vape waste litters our towns, including in parks where my children play. Several times at playgrounds and on nature walks, I need to redirect my little ones from touching vape waste, which can be colorful and attractive to children.

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 working-class families be forced to 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 result in cleaner streets, parks, and playgrounds; reduce the burden on schools; and create corporate accountability. Oregon has long been a leader in environmental stewardship, and this bill reaffirms our commitment to protecting our communities from pollution.

I urge you to vote YES on SB 1020 to protect our environment, hold corporations accountable, and ensure families no longer have to bear the burden of vape waste.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Briana Donahue-Martens