



**OREGON STATE SENATE**  
**900 COURT STREET ST NE**  
**SALEM, OREGON 97301**

March 25, 2025

Senate Committee on Labor and Business

Testimony on SB 1020

Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, and members of the committee, for the record, I am Lew Frederick, State Senator for District 22, that's North and Northeast Portland.

I am here today to speak in support of SB 1020, a simple concept to address a complex issue. As an advocate for student success and well-being, I have heard countless stories of the impacts of vaping in schools today. I am concerned with the access that K-12 students have to these devices to begin with. But when my Legislative Aide, Cameron Quackenbush, shared his work on electronic cigarette waste with me, I was astounded by the impact the waste could have on schools. He shared with me a [guidance document](#) published by the Oregon Health Authority directing schools on how to properly manage e-cigarette waste in order to comply with federal and state hazardous waste law. The OHA guidance says that “[electronic cigarette] pods and wands cannot be recycled. They often don’t make it into the trash can, littering school grounds and leaking toxins into the ground and air. If they do make it into the trash, they end up in a landfill. The batteries in discarded e-cigarettes can cause fires. They can also leak and contaminate groundwater, leading to contaminated drinking water.” Although this is not quite a Love Canal scenario, the images this statement evokes are eerily reminiscent.

SB 1020 is a common sense bill that adds a mandate of producer responsibility on manufacturers of electronic cigarettes and encourages their proper management through a refundable deposit – similar to other producer responsibility programs already in existence in Oregon. This is a matter of equity. A group of companies are selling these products to the public in large numbers, some are doing it legally, and many others are not. Nonetheless, even though not everyone uses e-cigarettes, they are threatening our collective spaces, like schools, and the environment more broadly. While discussions about the availability of these devices are certainly active in this building, the matter of the waste they generate should be directly addressed as well. Those who sell these products – who capitalize on and benefit from their sale – ought to be responsible for the management of the waste of their own products. For these reasons, I support SB 1020.

Cam, my legislative aide, is also here to testify and I know he is more than capable of answering any questions. I have been quite impressed with his knowledge of this issue, and his law school capstone about this issue was recently published in the Environmental Law Reporter as its featured article of the month. It has also been uploaded on OLIS for the record. I’m very proud of his impressive work on this, and thank you for your consideration of SB 1020.