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March 27, 2025

Senator Kathleen Taylor, Chair  
Senator Daniel Bonham, Vice-Chair  
Senate Labor and Business Committee  
State Capitol, Room 453  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Support for SB 1020, inhalant delivery system producer responsibility program.**

Dear Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **SB 1020**, the inhalant delivery system producer responsibility program, which would establish an extended producer responsibility program for inhalant delivery systems in Oregon.

Many of PSI's state and local government members have expressed frustration with figuring out how to best manage the growing waste from both reusable and single-use vapor devices. These devices contain batteries, electronic components, and residual nicotine, making them hazardous in standard waste streams. The inability to remove batteries and liquid cartridges from single-use devices compounds these risks.

Each inhalant delivery system contains a lithium-ion battery that, if not properly handled, can pose significant environmental and safety risks. When improperly disposed of, these devices can cause fires in waste collection vehicles, processing facilities, and communities. Additionally, the valuable and critical materials in these batteries – including lithium, cobalt, and other metals – are lost to landfills instead of being recovered for reuse.

Currently, there is no coordinated system for collecting and disposing of these products, leaving local governments to bear high management costs, with disposal costs ranging from \$20 to \$60 per pound.

Due to a lack of alternative recycling options, incineration is the current best practice for disposal, resulting in the loss of valuable materials. SB 1020 encourages producers design products to facilitate reuse and recycling, and prioritize recycling components of devices whenever possible.

SB 1020 establishes a producer-funded program that would:

- Establish a convenient collection and disposal system, to ensure devices are properly managed.
- Incentivize manufacturers to create reusable and recyclable products.
- Prioritize recycling of batteries and device components.
- Create a separate collection stream for these battery-containing devices, which will reduce fire risks in waste management facilities and vehicles.

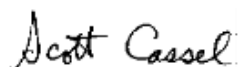
SB 1020 will additionally create a deposit system where consumers pay a fee of \$5 per device at the point of sale, which will be refunded when the device is returned to a collection site. Manufacturers are required to clearly indicate the refund value on device labels or packaging. This system follows a similar structure to Oregon's bottle bill, but with a higher refund value to reflect the higher value of materials and importance of proper management. This will incentivize consumers to return used devices to collection sites.

Oregon has long been a leader in environmental stewardship and producer responsibility programs. SB 1020 continues this leadership, creating a framework that can serve as a model for other states while protecting Oregon's waste management infrastructure and environment by addressing an emerging waste management challenge.

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) is a national policy expert and consulting nonprofit that pioneered product stewardship in the United States with our members – a coalition of hundreds of state and local government officials, including those in Oregon. Since 2000, PSI's facilitated dialogues, research, pilot programs, and policy models have shaped most of the 141 EPR laws enacted for 20 industry sectors, including Oregon's EPR laws.

I respectfully urge you to **support SB 1020** for the financial and environmental health of Oregon's communities and economy. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (617) 513-3954, or [Scott@ProductStewardship.US](mailto:Scott@ProductStewardship.US).

Sincerely,



Scott Cassel  
Chief Executive Officer/Founder