

WHITMAN COUNTY  
**Department of Public Works**

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SOLID WASTE DIVISION

December 14, 2012

Lisa Sepanski  
Co-Chair NWPSC  
King County Solid Waste Division  
201 S Jackson St, Rm 701  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Ms. Sepanski:

This letter is in support of product stewardship principles and the integration of these principles into the policy and economic structure of the Pacific Northwest. As our Washington State legislators consider two bills in the 2013 session, one for paint and one for rechargeable batteries, it is important that they hear from local government about the benefits of these programs to the community.

To me, the concept of "product stewardship" is similar to a "user tax" or "user fee". The long term cost to dispose of or handle product or containers after their primary use is borne by the original purchaser or user (through the manufacturer). It can also be stated that the long term cost of the product is not borne by the public at large. In this way, the long term, or "real" cost of various products is already built into the price at the cash register, not the governmental tax system. When people talk about environmental and governmental sustainability, this is a great example of what we should be striving for.

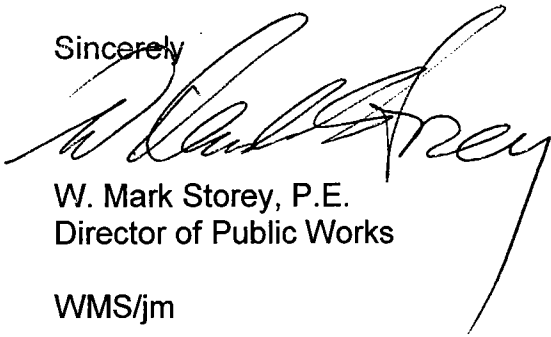
Product stewardship programs for paint and batteries would greatly benefit both Washington and our local community. Paint collection often represents over half of the hazardous waste collection costs for local government solid waste related programs. If the paint industry were to offset these costs through product stewardship, it would create a significant long term savings for local jurisdictions that are struggling to provide services.

The American Coatings Association is currently financing some local collection programs in the Northwest, and is offering to initiate the same in Washington. We

believe that those efforts should be supported locally. The Whitman County 2012 Solid Waste Plan (adopted by the Board of County Commissioners) contains the following language in support of product stewardship: "At the national and regional level, various initiatives, including involving manufacturers and retailers through product stewardship, are emerging. Over the next several years, it is anticipated that Whitman County will further develop policies and recycling programs to handle this waste stream. Local product stewardship initiatives may be part of the management solution."

I urge you to consider supporting Washington State product stewardship bills as they come forward in the 2013 legislative session. They will increase recycling opportunities, transfer cost to those using the products, and reduce some of the costs borne by local government.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Mark Storey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

W. Mark Storey, P.E.  
Director of Public Works

WMS/jm

CC: BOCC  
SWAC