



January 5, 2013

Dear 2013 Washington State Legislature:

I am writing to express South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity's support for legislation to establish a producer managed leftover paint recovery program for leftover oil-based and latex architectural paints from households and qualifying businesses in Washington.

Habitat for Humanity Stores, in Washington, receive a good deal of architectural paints through donations. We offer the reusable paint for sale back to the public. We have strict criteria of what we can accept for reuse but cannot always determine if the paint meets these guidelines until after we have had a chance to thoroughly examine it. Unfortunately, this means we are left with a sizeable amount of leftover paint that cannot be sold. We take pride in managing this unusable paint in a safe and environmentally sound manner. In order to do this we must take this material to a local government household hazardous waste program or contract with a hazardous waste management company. This adds significant time and cost to our store(s).

We support the American Coatings Association's (ACA) legislation requiring paint manufacturers to establish a program for Washington residents. When similar legislation passed in 2009 in Oregon, some of our sister stores in Oregon signed up to be collection locations for the program. Since that time, these locations in Oregon have seen an increase in foot traffic at their stores, which brings with it a potential for more sales, donations, and reuse opportunities. The paint that cannot be reused is collected through the product stewardship program at no cost to the stores. Besides the benefits to Habitat for Humanity, these communities now have convenient opportunities to properly manage all their paint so that less of it is improperly disposed of.

It would be extremely beneficial to have the same type of program operating in Washington State. We hope you will do all you can to ensure passage of legislation that would require the manufacturers of architectural paints sold in Washington to establish a convenient and safe return program. South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity respectfully urges your support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. White", is written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Caleb White, Regional Store Manager

caleb@spshabitat.org

360-956-3456 ext. 11