



Don Benton
Director

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

November 25, 2015

Senator Doug Ericksen
PO Box 40442,
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: SB 5424/HB 1579 – Paint Takeback Program

Dear Senator Ericksen,

I am writing to express Clark County Department of Environmental Service's support for SB 5424/HB 1579, which authorizes manufacturers selling paint in Washington State to provide a take-back and recycling program for unwanted latex and oil-based architectural paint. This legislation is supported by the paint manufacturers who have been actively working with local governments on this bill.

Architectural paint is the largest and most expensive waste stream for our moderate risk waste (MRW) programs. Currently, 16 counties do not accept latex paint from residents which represents 60 percent of the state population. Clark County is one of the few counties in the state that continues to recycle latex paint. We partner with seven local paint stores including: three Millers, one Rhodda, North County Hardware, Parkrose Hardware and the Habitat for Humanity Restore and provide drop off opportunities at the County three transfer stations. In 2015 approximately 600,000 pounds of paint were processed at a cost of \$140,400. In addition the Solid Waste Program pays \$25,000 yearly to cover transportation costs from the seven paint stores to the fixed facilities. These costs are born by Clark County taxpayers and garbage ratepayers.

Clark County cannot continue funding latex paint recycling programs in the future. This would be unfortunate as paint is made of materials that can be captured for reuse, recycling, or energy recovery. SB 5424/HB 1579 would establish a statewide recycling program, coordinated by paint manufacturers and funded through a small assessment on paint sold in Washington. The program would expand the number of collection sites for both oil and latex paint and would greatly boost the amount of paint collected and recycled. Residents, as well as painting and general contractors qualify for the program. They would then be able to return their unwanted paint to convenient collections locations and the paint would be properly managed.

This legislation is supported by the American Coatings Association (ACA). They have collaborated with many local and state governments, businesses, and refuse and recycling companies across the country to create this meaningful legislation. In 2009,

“model” legislation was passed in Oregon as a demonstration project. Oregon consumers now have 102 paint collection sites, up from 15 sites in 2009 and 94% of residents live within 15 miles of a permanent collection site. Oregon local governments have seen direct cost savings including approximately \$1 million per year in savings for Portland Metro alone. Since 2010, similar stewardship legislation has been enacted in California, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

Clark County respectfully urges your support for this legislation that would provide for a convenient and safe return program for unwanted paints. This industry supported legislation would greatly reduce costs for local governments, increase collection opportunities, increase recycling and recovery, and reduce improper disposal of hazardous waste material.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Benton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "D" and "B".

Don Benton
Director of Environmental Services

c: Peter DuBois and file