

Lewis County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

P.O. Box 180

Chehalis, Washington 98531-0180

360-740-1451

November 24, 2014

The Honorable John Braun
P.O. Box 40420
Olympia, Washington 98504-0420

Dear Senator Braun:

I am writing to express the Lewis County Solid Waste Advisory Committee's support for SB 5424 / HB 1579, which authorizes manufacturers selling paint in Washington 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.

Currently, local governments are the primary collectors of unwanted paint in Washington. Architectural paint is the largest and most expensive waste stream for our moderate risk waste (MRW) programs. In 2010, Washington local government programs collected more than 507,000 gallons of paint, which is only 38% of the unwanted paint available for collection, according to estimates by the Department of Ecology. The cost to Washington taxpayers and garbage ratepayers was approximately 3 million dollars. In Lewis County, paint represents 74% of the household hazardous waste managed by the Lewis County Solid Waste Utility, costing around \$19,329 annually.

Currently, 16 counties do not accept latex paint from residents which represents 60 percent of the state population. Those that collect latex paint are concerned that they cannot continue funding these programs in the future. Eight counties do not have permanent MRW collection sites for paint. When managed improperly, unwanted paint poses risks to human health and the environment. Oil-based paint is toxic and flammable. Latex paint, in liquid form, is prohibited from many residential garbage programs to prevent spills curbside, in the street, in garbage trucks, and at transfer stations. Moreover, paint is made of materials that could 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 whose business (size) qualifies for the program, could return their unwanted paint to convenient collections locations at no cost 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.

The Lewis County Solid Waste Advisory Committee 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 a hazardous material.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee Coumbs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "L".

Lee Coumbs

Chairman

LEWIS COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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November 24, 2014

The Honorable Richard DeBolt
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative DeBolt:

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Chairman

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November 24, 2014

The Honorable Ed Orcutt
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Orcutt:

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Lee Coumbs
Chairman

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