

RESOLUTION NO. 14803

A RESOLUTION of Thurston County supporting product stewardship systems for leftover paint to provide stable financing, increase recycling and resource recovery, and reduce environmental and health impacts.

WHEREAS the recycling and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes and the conservation of resources are two of the most challenging and costly issues currently facing local governments; and

WHEREAS oil-based paints are toxic, can harm fish and wildlife, can pollute groundwater if dumped, and contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that can irritate eyes, skin, and lungs, cause headaches and nausea, and can contribute to asthma or other respiratory problems, muscle weakness, and liver and kidney damage; and

WHEREAS 10% of purchased paint becomes leftover waste paint, resulting in 1.34 million gallons of leftover paint in Washington in 2010; and

WHEREAS paint is the second largest waste stream, behind used oil, collected at hazardous waste facilities in Washington State and only 38% of available leftover paint or 507,235 gallons of paint were collected in 2010; and

WHEREAS only 28 percent of leftover latex paint collected in Washington in 2011 was recycled, and 60 percent of state residents had no access to latex collection; and

WHEREAS leftover latex paint can be made into recycled-content paint, reducing the raw materials needed to produce virgin paints, and the energy required to extract those materials and manufacture new paint; and

WHEREAS local governments spent an estimated \$3.5 million or 52 cents for every person in the state to recycle paint; and

WHEREAS Product Stewardship is a policy approach that shifts financial and physical responsibility for end-of-life management of consumer products from local governments to those who benefit economically from the sale of the products they produce and to those who use the products; and

WHEREAS when producers are responsible for ensuring their products are reused or recycled or disposed of responsibly, also known as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), and when health and environmental costs are included in the product price, there is an incentive to design products that are more durable, easier to repair and recycle, and less toxic; and

WHEREAS local and state governments have been in negotiation with paint manufacturers of the American Coatings Association (ACA) to reach agreement on paint producer responsibility since 2002, which lead to a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Washington Department of Ecology, Benton-Franklin Health Department, City of Walla Walla, City of Spokane Solid Waste Department, City of Vancouver Solid Waste Division, Clark County, Cowlitz County Public Works, Grays Harbor County, King County Solid Waste Division, Kitsap County Solid Waste Division, Lincoln County Public Works, Pend Oreille County, Snohomish County Solid Waste Division, The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County, Whatcom County Executive, Whitman County Solid Waste Department, Yakima County Solid Waste; and

WHEREAS the American Coatings Association, representing both companies and professionals working in the paint and coatings industry, support stewardship legislation requiring the paint manufacturers to

finance and manage a paint stewardship program to recycle unwanted architectural paint and industry supported legislation has been enacted in Oregon, California, Connecticut, and Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS the American Coatings Association supports legislation in Washington so that a similar product stewardship system for paint can be implemented in Washington state; and

WHEREAS it is beneficial to local government, our citizens and our state to support industry-driven initiatives that provide increased recycling and resource recovery, stable financing, and reduced environmental and health impacts;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THURSTON COUNTY that:

Thurston County supports policies and legislation that establish a convenient, safe, and environmentally-sound paint stewardship program in Washington State that is financed by the paint manufacturers and covers the cost of collection, transportation, and recycling, and does not rely on state and local government funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Public Works of Thurston County is authorized to send letters to the State Legislature and State associations, and to use other advocacy methods to urge support for paint product stewardship legislation.

ADOPTED: November 13, 2012

ATTEST:

Laborinda J. Borgman
Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Thurston County, Washington

Cathy Hoek
Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JON TUNHEIM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Karen Valenzuela
Vice-Chair

By: [Signature]
Rick Peters
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

[Signature]
Commissioner