



*Pend Oreille County*

# *Board of Commissioners*

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February 6, 2017

Representative Jacquelin Maycumber  
411 John L. O'Brien Building  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Model Toxics Control Act

Dear Representative Maycumber,

Pend Oreille County will be greatly affected by the cuts to the household hazardous waste grant program that funds programs here at our solid waste facilities, recycling, and local public health jurisdictions.

Counties are implementers of many of the hazardous waste reduction and prevention programs that are underpinnings of the hazardous substance tax, collected for the Model Toxics Control Account (MTCA).

Pend Oreille County's solid waste and recycling facilities are the front line in keeping household hazardous waste out of the landfills and pollution streams. We are being squeezed on all sides with increasing regulation such as the new draft of the solid waste rule (WAC 173-350) and most importantly, funding for these state programs is being cut again in the Governor's proposed budget. The program is called Coordinated Prevention Grants, or CPG for short. The name doesn't really tell you what it does, but it helps fund our local household hazardous waste collection sites at the transfer stations.

Historically the funding has been a little over 28 million dollars. Last biennia it was cut to 15 million dollars and this biennia, it is proposed to be cut to only 10 million dollars state wide.

To compound the issue, the \$10 million appropriation is dependent on the passage of a surcharge to the hazardous substance tax. It appears that if the surcharge does not pass, the program has no funding.

Please fund CPG in full with regular MTCA funds, as this important program needs consistent funding not based on a surcharge. This program is a direct link to the reduction of hazardous waste the hazardous substance tax initiative originally intended.

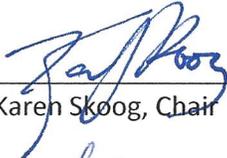
This program is a long standing, ongoing local program that is one of the original goals of the hazardous substance tax initiative. With the history of success, this program could easily be funded in a direct distribution for both simplification and remove the need for extra administration at the Department of Ecology.

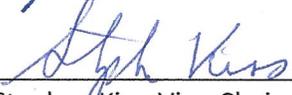
This has been successfully done previously with certain historic funding through the Department of Health to local health jurisdictions. It was changed to a direct distribution and has moved seamlessly since.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Staff stand ready to assist you in any way needed.

Regards,

PEND OREILLE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
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