



Upper Arkansas Recycling (A UAACOG Program)

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Beth Lenz, Director

January 24, 2018

Honorable Tim Neville, Chairman
 Colorado Senate Finance Committee
 200 E. 14th Avenue, LSB-A
 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing in regards to Senate Bill 18-045, a bill introduced by the Honorable Senator Lundberg, concerning the repeal of the "Architectural Paint Stewardship Act". I apologize for not being able to travel to Denver to provide these comments in person, but my schedule did not allow for that.

As the director of a regional recycling program, when I first learned of the bill, I attempted to learn what the impact would be, both positive and negative, on our region-(Fremont, Custer, Chaffee, and Lake Counties). Initially, we had issues with the system that was established (PaintCare). However, in the past year, things have been running smoothly.

The 2014 Architectural Paint Stewardship Act has been a very positive thing for non-profits in rural Colorado. Thrift stores in our region have experienced a significant decrease in the amount of paint that is "dumped" at their donation drop-offs. According to one thrift store, paint being dumped at their site was a weekly occurrence prior to the legislation. Now, they cannot recall an incident in the past year. Another positive thing that we've seen is having Green Sheen and Southern Colorado Recycling offer recycled paint at a discounted rate. Southern Colorado Recycling in Pueblo has been instrumental in allowing low-income homeowners make improvements that they wouldn't be able to afford otherwise, as well as actively supporting graffiti prevention and removal (using recycled paint as cover). Green Sheen has been working with Habitat for Humanity ReStore locations. They sell the recycled paint to the ReStore's at a very discounted rate; the ReStore's can then sell the recycled paint (still at a very low cost). This additional income source increases the stability of these nonprofits.

In discussing the issue with local governments, I encountered the same response: They are unsure how to estimate the economic impact. but it certainly would have an impact. Currently, none of the counties are experiencing issues with paint being illegally dumped. However, if this option for recycling is repealed, the burden of cleaning up any illegally dumped paint will fall on the shoulders of local governments.

In our region, we do not have any Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facilities. In my 17+ years in this position, we have only held one HHW event. The cost of a four hour event was over \$40,000, an almost impossible amount to fund. However, we were able to offer yearly paint recycling events, thanks to Southern Colorado Recycling being located only 35 miles away. However, the cost of these events was paid for by local governments, as well as fees charged to participants. If this product stewardship legislation is repealed, the cost incurred by our local governments to resume holding these special events would be approximately \$21,024 a year-(assuming one event per year in each county). This cost is separate from any costs incurred due to illegal dumping.

In learning of the PaintCare surplus funds, I was very concerned. However, I've found in reviewing the PaintCare reports, including their independent audits, that this was anticipated. They utilize a method that has proven successful for them. They attack the "low-hanging fruit" first, or set up programs in the most population dense communities. This requires the smallest amount of work for the smallest investment allowing them to recoup the initial costs. Their next step is siting more rural area; this is substantially more expensive, especially considering transportation.

The Architectural Paint Stewardship Act has led to the expansion of the recycled paint market, leading to increased revenues for nonprofits and decreased burden of cost on local governments. I would most respectfully request that you listen to the voices of those most impacted by this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Lenz", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Beth Lenz

Director, Upper Arkansas Recycling