



January 22, 2018

Senate Finance Committee

We are writing today in support of the Colorado PaintCare program and to implore you not to repeal the Architectural Paint Stewardship Act (SB18-45).

Yampa Valley Sustainability Council (YVSC) is a small nonprofit in Routt County that works as a resource and catalyst for building a sustainable community in northwest Colorado. In this capacity, we work closely with the Routt County Department of Environmental Health on waste diversion and materials management issues. YVSC provides year-round outreach to educate our community about recycling of traditional and hard-to-recycle materials, as well as proper disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW). In partnership with the County, we also host an annual Community Recycling Drop-off event, at which community members recycle their hard-to-recycle materials and dispose of their HHW. For this one-day collection, Routt County contracts with a third-party HHW collection service. The volume of HHW collection is extremely limited by the size of the truck and the County's budget, and each year we have had to turn residents away because we have reached our HHW capacity. The drop-off event is the **only** local opportunity that Routt County residents have to remove household hazardous waste from their homes.

The passage of the Architectural Paint Stewardship Act and resulting development of the Colorado PaintCare program, provided the opportunity for our rural community to safely recycle (or when necessary properly dispose of) paint. We currently have two PaintCare drop-off locations in Routt County. In addition, PaintCare participates in our Community Recycling Drop-off event, diverting paint that would otherwise go into the limited HHW collection. With the year-round drop-off locations at Ace Hardware and Sherwin-Williams and support at our Community Recycling Drop-off event for paint collection, the PaintCare program is facilitating the safe collection and disposal of greater volumes of other HHW that would otherwise be illegally dumped or improperly stored (at potential risk to human health and the environment).

The PaintCare program also provides outreach materials to YVSC and our local paint stores. YVSC distributes these flyers at more than ten waste diversion events per year and highlights this information in our annual recycling guide, with a distribution of more than 11,000 copies through our community. Thousand more community members learn about paint recycling at our local paint stores. YVSC is a small organization that could not develop and provide the extensive education and outreach about paint recycling and proper disposal that PaintCare can.

Remote and rural communities, like Routt County, do not have the same opportunities and permanent recycling facilities as those on the Front Range. We do not have year-round access to HHW disposal or funding for extensive outreach on proper disposal of HHW and recycling of paint. Repealing the Architectural Paint Stewardship Act would not only eliminate these opportunities for education and greater waste diversion through the recycling of paint, but it would also have a significant impact our ability to collect and properly dispose of other—often more toxic—HHW materials. For the preservation of human health and the environment, as well as equal opportunities for rural communities, we ask that you not repeal the Architectural Paint Stewardship Act.

I would be happy to discuss this issue in greater detail. I can be reached at 970.871.9299 or sarah@yvsc.org.

Kind regards,

Sarah Jones
Executive Director, YVSC