

May 11, 2021



Oregon Progressive Party Independent Party of Oregon

Position on Bills at 2021 Session of Oregon Legislature:

Dear Committee: **Support HB 2344**

The Oregon Progressive Party and Independent Party of Oregon support this bill, which would:

- Require persons that have responsibility for or control over packaging and labeling premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes with specified characteristics to comply with certain labeling requirements for product packaging.
- Permit city, county or special district that provides wastewater service to enforce compliance with Act by bringing action to recover civil penalty in specified amounts.

Unfortunately, the penalties allowed by HB 2344 are so low that the bill may well be ineffective. It allows civil penalties of only \$2,000 to \$10,000 for a violation, when such violation could involve many thousands, tens of thousands, or hundreds of thousands of offending packages. It is also unfortunate that the adopted -5 amendment eliminated Section 1(12), which would have deemed a violation to be an unlawful trade practice under ORS 646.607, which authorizes enforcement actions by prosecuting attorneys and by individuals and class actions. Instead, HB2344A is left with enforcement only by city, county, or special district wastewater agencies.

Oregon Progressive Party

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