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February 14, 2018

Skagit County Board of Health
Skagit County Public Health
700 S. 2nd St. STE 301
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

RE: Support for Skagit County Secure Medicine Return proposed policy

Dear Members of the Board of Health:

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) strongly supports Skagit County's proposed policy to establish a manufacturer financed and managed drug take-back program. This legislation would establish proper disposal options for unwanted and expired pharmaceuticals—both controlled and non-controlled substances—providing residents with a convenient way to safely dispose of unused medications.

Mounting evidence demonstrates the need for secure medication disposal options that match the convenience of purchasing them. Pharmaceuticals improperly stored in the home or disposed in the trash may end up in the hands of children, teenagers, and potential abusers. A lack of safe disposal options contributes to the national drug abuse epidemic that is now the leading cause of injury death in the U.S., ahead of car accidents. Moreover, when flushed or thrown away, pharmaceuticals end up in waterways, harming the ecosystem and potentially affecting sources of drinking water.

Drug take-back programs are considered the safest, most effective drug disposal solution by the majority of local, state, and federal agencies. Producer-funded drug take-back programs save government and taxpayers money, fairly incorporate the true cost of managing these products in the purchase price, and provide a direct financial incentive for pharmaceutical companies to reduce unnecessary prescriptions. This funding mechanism is a key element to the sustainability and success of these programs.

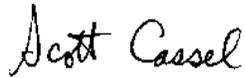
Product Stewardship Institute, Inc. | 29 Stanhope Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02116
tel. 617.236.4855 | www.productstewardship.us | @productsteward
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In the U.S., 21 local governments and two states (Massachusetts and Vermont) have already passed similar drug stewardship laws around the country. Many other state and local governments are considering similar legislation, including Washington State which is poised to pass its own bill. Already, six other counties in Washington State have passed similar ordinances. Skagit County has the chance to stand among these leaders by taking this important step to address the opioid epidemic, accidental overdoses, and aquatic contamination.

Thank you for your strong leadership on this important issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Cassel". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Scott Cassel
Chief Executive Officer/Founder