

May 19, 2025

Via E-mail (michael.lee@deq.oregon.gov)

Michael Lee
Product Stewardship Specialist
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
700 NE Multnomah Street
Portland, Oregon 97232

Subject: Waiver Request for Drop-Off Site Requirement in Five Rural Counties

Dear Mr. Lee,

The Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation ("Foundation") is pleased to submit this formal request for a waiver of the Drop-Off Site requirement for five rural Oregon counties: Curry, Grant, Morrow, Sherman, and Wheeler ("the Five Counties"). This request is made pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 459A.209(3), which allows the Foundation to request a waiver from the requirement to have a Drop-Off Site in each county when the Foundation is providing mail-back services in that county.

Table 1: Population Data for the Five Counties

County	Population (approximately)	Number of Population Centers
Curry	10,473	3
Grant	4,361	9
Morrow	7,946	5
Sherman	1,240	4
Wheeler	714	3

This waiver request is submitted in conjunction with our updated quadrennial Program Plan for 2025 per DEQ's guidance. We understand that the Department of Environmental Quality ("DEQ") must evaluate and approve such waiver requests against Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 340-098-0350, to which the Foundation has provided the following specific data to support DEQ's approval of our waiver request.

1. Good faith efforts to solicit and enter into agreements with potential authorized collectors in the affected county or population center for which a waiver or DEQ approval is sought, such as through outreach to identify, contact and engage with potential authorized collectors:

The Foundation has made significant “good faith efforts” to establish a Drop-Off Site in each of the Five Counties as outlined in the attached spreadsheet *Sales Outreach to OR 5 Counties_5.12.25*. This spreadsheet lists all potential collectors per each population center within each of the 5 counties. Additionally, it lists each outreach contact and the results of that contact.

2. Why a drop-off site cannot established or maintained in the affected county or population center, including an explanation of any conditions for participation on which the program operator or any potential authorized collector could not agree:

Despite our diligent efforts, we have been unable to establish or maintain Drop-Off Sites in certain areas of the Five Counties due to various factors. Reasons that potential Authorized Collectors elected not to host a kiosk or to serve solely as Mail-Back Distribution Sites include ineligibility under DEA requirements; existing participation with another plan operator, facility capacity constraints or declined to participate for various business reasons. These factors prevented agreements from being reached.

3. How the proposed services and, as applicable, collection events will provide reasonably convenient and equitable access to all residents in the affected county or population center, and engagement with minority, lower-income, rural and other historically underserved communities to help ensure this:

To ensure convenient and equitable access to drug take-back services, the Foundation has been providing direct mail-back services to residents of the Five Counties. This mail-back service includes:

- Distribution of DOT-approved sharps containers suitable for pre-filled injector products and other covered drugs.
- Providing tamper-evident, pre-paid, pre-addressed return envelopes for convenient and secure returns.
- Detailed, plain-language disposal and packaging instructions with each mail-back kit.
- Efficient request and fulfillment workflows with prompt shipping and tracking information.
- End-to-end traceability and secure disposal of returned medications through our reverse-distribution partner(s).

We believe this mail-back service provides a convenient and equitable access alternative for residents of the Five Counties, particularly given the challenges of establishing and maintaining Drop-Off Sites in these areas. We have made this information accessible on our website and through public outreach to all residents within these areas. Lastly, we have also included detailed information about our mail-back services plan for the Five Counties in our updated Program Plan.

4. Concurrence by the appropriate local governments in the affected population center or county with the proposed services and, as applicable, collection events, or an explanation of why the program operator could not obtain such concurrence despite good faith efforts:

The Foundation has actively sought Authorized Collectors, including law enforcement agencies (LEAs), as documented in the *Sales Outreach to OR 5 Counties_5.12.25* spreadsheet. However, separate formal outreach to obtain letters of concurrence from local governments for collection events is not applicable to the mail-back service. Coordination with local governments regarding collection events is addressed in our updated Program Plan, as it is outside the scope of this waiver request. All potential Authorized Collectors have been informed about the mail-back service option.

5. Commitment to solicit potential authorized collectors for the affected county or population center on at least an annual basis:

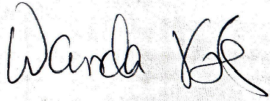
The Foundation has identified new potential Authorized Collectors in each of the Five Counties on an ongoing basis. This included utilizing resources such as sales leads, OR BOP pharmacy license lookup, Oregon Health Authority for licensed hospitals and Opioid treatment facilities, and general internet searches. Newly identified potential Authorized Collectors were added to our outreach list and contacted per the same process as our already identified potential Authorized Collectors, and this process will continue to be implemented on an annual basis.

Thus, the Foundation is committed to providing convenient and equitable access to drug take-back services for all Oregon residents, however, despite our diligent efforts to establish Drop-Off Sites in the Five Counties, due to their remote location and sparse population, even our extensive good faith efforts have failed to secure enough Drop-Off Sites in the Five Counties to meet convenience.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that DEQ approve this waiver request, allowing us to continue providing mail-back services in Curry, Grant, Morrow, Sherman, and Wheeler counties in fulfillment of our drug take-back obligations.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We are available to discuss this further and provide any additional information you may need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wanda Voigt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The word "Wanda" is clearly legible, followed by a stylized "V" and "O" that form the last name "Voigt". The signature is positioned above a faint, light gray rectangular background.

Wanda Voigt, M.Jur, R.N., B.S.N.
Interim President
Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation

cc:
Cheryl Grabham
Materials Management Program Manager
Solid Waste & Material Recovery Team, Oregon DEQ