

To: Chair Christopher Bray, Vice Chair Anne Watson, and Committee Members
Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Energy

From: Michael Gruber, Senior Vice President, Government Relations & Public Policy

Date: April 27, 2023

Re: H.67 An Act Relating to Household Products Containing Hazardous Substances

Chairman Bray, Vice-Chair Watson, and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to provide comments on H.67. My name is Mike Gruber, and I am the Senior Vice President, Government Relations and Public Policy for the Household and Commercial Products Association. HCPA represents a wide range of trusted and familiar household and commercial products, which include disinfectants and sanitizers; and cleaning products for use throughout the home; air fresheners, room deodorizers and candles that eliminate malodors; pest management products for home, lawn and garden; floor and furniture maintenance and polish products; products used to protect and improve the performance and appearance of automobiles; and a host of other products used every day by consumers

We believe H.67 as passed by the House creates a more complex and expensive program than is necessary given the existing infrastructure already in place and managed by Vermont's Solid Waste Management Entities. No other state in the United States has an extended producer responsibility (EPR) law for household hazardous waste. HCPA understands the legislature's desire to create a program to have manufacturers share in the cost of responsible collection and disposal of household hazardous waste products. A lack of adequate funding for managing Household Hazardous Waste has been a consistent theme during this process and is supported by recent program assessments. HCPA is committed to working with stakeholders to strengthen existing programs to improve the collection and management of material that poses a threat to the environment.

We respectfully request that the committee consider and look favorably upon the amendments to H.67 that HCPA, along with our colleague at the American Cleaning Institute, offer this morning.

Thank you for your consideration.