



CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

July 30, 2010

MEMBER AGENCIES

Central Contra Costa
County

Town of Danville

City of Lafayette

Town of Moraga

City of Orinda

City of Walnut Creek

Felipe Fuentes
California State Assembly Appropriations Committee, Chair
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0039

RE: SB 1100 (Corbett) Product Stewardship for Household Batteries – Strong Support

Dear Chair Fuentes:

The Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA), which manages the solid waste and recycling programs for approximately 200,000 residents in Central Contra Costa County, supports SB 1100, as written on February 17 and amended on June 15, 2010. This bill would require battery manufacturers to create and implement stewardship programs to address the collection and proper disposal for their products at end-of-life.

According to a California report, more than 500 million batteries are sold each year in California and that number is expected to rise. Today, it is estimated that only one-half of one percent of used batteries are recycled through local government household hazardous waste programs.

The CCCSWA's single-use household battery collection and disposal program costs our agency approximately \$120,000 annually. This cost is borne, not by the people who benefit from the sale of batteries (e.g. manufacturers, retailers, and users), but by all of our garbage ratepayers.

Battery manufacturers have little incentive to be concerned about how much it costs our ratepayers to properly and safely dispose of their products. Stewardship will ensure that the cost for end-of-life management is included in the product price, not a burden externalized onto the garbage ratepayers.

SB 1100 will help local governments' budgets by saving tax-payers money that is used to manage toxic battery waste. It will also create green jobs by collecting and recycling batteries in the private sector.

The CCCSWA recognizes that Producer Responsibility, as illustrated in SB 1100, is a viable model for public policy, that can foster sustainable product design and more practical collection and disposal methods, while relieving local governments from the burden of unfunded mandates.

We urge your support of SB 1100 when it is heard in committee.

Sincerely,

Victoria Smith
CCCSWA, Board Chair

