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LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331  
P.O. BOX 1460, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460  
[www.lacountyiswmtf.org](http://www.lacountyiswmtf.org)

June 23, 2016

TO: All City Mayors, City Council Members, and City Managers, in Los Angeles County

**ASSEMBLY BILL 45 – OPPOSE  
SOLID WASTE: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) strongly urges your City to oppose and, subject to your availability, testify against Assembly Bill 45 (AB 45), as amended on January 21, 2016, for a multitude of unworkable issues expressed in this letter. For your consideration and use, a draft letter of opposition addressed to the Chair of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee, Bob Wieckowski, is enclosed.

If enacted, AB 45, as proposed, would negate the legislative precedent and legal authority of local jurisdictions to enact their own local pharmaceutical or sharps ordinances that would require manufacturers of prescription drugs, sharps, batteries, and other “household hazardous waste”, to partake in the shared responsibility for the collection and proper management of this material. Instead, this bill is intended to only require manufactures to provide an insultingly low amount of funding for local jurisdictions’ outreach activities. The current language of the bill specifies manufactures to provide \$5 million in grants to local jurisdictions over 5 years, which according to the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), each county would only receive an average of \$17,241 (just over \$2,000 per city), an insignificant amount of the funding needed to fully and effectively address the problem. The \$5 million over 5 years is an insult to local government and is not consistent with the findings and declarations of the bill stating that this is an “extraordinary challenge.”

As demonstrated in other jurisdictions in the State, including Alameda County, San Francisco County, Santa Barbara, and Marin County, local ordinances provide residents with convenient means of safe disposal of unwanted sharps and pharmaceuticals while preventing these products from entering the environment where they become vulnerable to drug abuse and misuse and inflict injuries associated with sharps being improperly disposed. These local ordinances are the definition of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), and thus, AB 45 is counterintuitive to CalRecycle’s adopted EPR framework, which outlines the appropriate role for producers and others in the system to go well beyond public education. Additionally, the bill discounts the findings highlighted in the AB 341 Report to the Legislature that recommends an EPR strategy for managing Household Hazardous Waste (HHW).

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At present the bill sits in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee awaiting further debate and action at its scheduled hearing this coming Wednesday, June 29, 2016. Consistent with the enclosed letter of opposition from the League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division, dated April 15, 2016, we strongly urge each city to forward a letter of opposition addressed to the Senate Environmental Committee and/or send representation of your respective organization to attend the Committee's critical hearing scheduled for June 29, 2016, to provide testimony on the detrimental effects this inequitable bill would have on your communities and the resources you need to protect them with.

Pursuant to the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939 as amended) and Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code, the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of Los Angeles and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of ten million. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective and environmentally sound solid waste management system in Los Angeles County, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the system on a countywide basis. The Task Force membership includes representatives of the League of California Cities-Los Angeles County Division, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, City of Los Angeles, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

Thank you again for the opportunity to offer comments. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at [MikeMohajer@yahoo.com](mailto:MikeMohajer@yahoo.com) or (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste management Task Force and  
Council Member, City of Rosemead

JJ:kk

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Enc. (3)

cc: League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
Westside Cities Council of Governments

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Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County  
Each Member of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task  
Force

**TEMPLATE**

**Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection and Disposal  
Stewardship Ordinance**

*Draft Template Letter of Support to be put on City Letterhead*

Date

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, Chair  
Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2205  
Sacramento, California 95814

**SUBJECT: ASSEMBLY BILL 45 – OPPOSE  
SOLID WASTE: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**

Dear Senator Wieckowski:

The City of \_\_\_\_\_ strongly opposes Assembly Bill 45 (AB 45), as amended January 21, 2016. If enacted, AB 45, as proposed, would negate the legislative precedent and legal authority of local jurisdictions to enact their own local pharmaceutical and sharps take-back ordinances that would require manufacturers of prescription drugs, sharps, batteries, and other “household hazardous waste,” to partake in the shared responsibility for the collection and proper management of this material. As demonstrated in other jurisdictions in the State, including Alameda County, San Francisco County, Santa Barbara, and Marin County, local ordinances provide residents with convenient means of safe disposal of unwanted sharps and pharmaceuticals while preventing these products from entering the environment where they become vulnerable to drug abuse and misuse and inflict injuries associated with sharps being improperly disposed.

As such, we strongly **oppose** AB 45, as this legislation and the inequitable components drafted into it by the pharmaceutical industry would substantially impose detrimental effects on our communities and the resources we need to protect.

Should you have any questions, please contact \_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

XXX, Title  
Organization

cc: Assembly Member Kevin Mullin  
Each member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and Committee  
Consultant  
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division  
Each member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task  
Force



April 15, 2016

Honorable Kevin Mullin  
Member, California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 3160  
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIA FAX: (916)319-2122

RE: **AB 45 (Mullin). Household Hazardous Waste. As amended January 21, 2016**  
**Notice of Opposition.**

Dear Assembly Member Mullin:

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Division (Division) of the League of California Cities®, representing 86 cities in the County, I write to inform you of our opposition to your AB 45 which requires CalRecycle, in consultation with affected industries and stakeholders to adopt one or more model ordinances for a comprehensive program for the collection of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) for adoption by any local jurisdiction that provides residential solid waste collection and disposal services.

Regrettably, AB 45 overlooks the recommendations in CalRecycles' AB 341 Report to the Legislature, which recommends an Extended Producer Responsibility strategy for managing HHW. Extended producers, such as pharmaceutical companies, need to manage and fund pharmaceutical and sharps collection entirely and throughout the state. AB 45 has neglected to recognize that, pursuant to existing State Law (the California Integrated Waste Management Act), each local government has already prepared and adopted a HHW Element, which has been approved by CalRecycle.

In an effort to be proactive, Los Angeles County has proposed the Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship ordinance. The Division strongly supports this proposed ordinance and we expect robust participation among cities if a final version is adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Ultimately, costs should not solely come from local jurisdictions and ratepayers. AB 45 is deficient in establishing producer responsibility for products contributed to the waste stream.

For these reasons, we oppose AB 45. If you have any questions please contact our Division staff, Kristine Guerrero, at [kguerrero@cacities.org](mailto:kguerrero@cacities.org).

Sincerely,

Carol Chen  
President  
Los Angeles County Division  
League of California Cities

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CC: Assembly Member Wieckowski, Chair Assembly Environmental Quality Committee  
Jason Rhine, League of California Cities  
Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation

**Please note:** As part of its expanded advocacy program, the Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities is now tracking votes of Los Angeles area Legislators and will issue a report at the conclusion of the legislative session to all its member cities regarding the consistency of legislators' votes with the positions of the Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities.

## California State Senate Environmental Quality Committee Membership - 2015 -2016 Legislative Session

Member	Mailing Address	E-Mail	Capitol Office Phone	Fax
Wieckowski, Bob, Chair	State Capitol, Room 3086 – Sacramento, CA 95814	<a href="mailto:senator.wieckowski@senate.ca.gov">senator.wieckowski@senate.ca.gov</a>	(916) 651-4010	(916) 651-4910
Gaines, Ted, Vice Chair	State Capitol, Room 3070 – Sacramento, CA 95814	<a href="mailto:senator.gaines@senate.ca.gov">senator.gaines@senate.ca.gov</a>	(916) 651-4002	(916) 651-4901
Bates, Patricia	State Capitol, Room 4048 – Sacramento, CA 95815	<a href="mailto:senator.bates@senate.ca.gov">senator.bates@senate.ca.gov</a>	(916) 651-4036	(916) 651-4936
Hill, Jerry	State Capitol, Room 5035 – Sacramento, CA 95817	<a href="mailto:senator.hill@senate.ca.gov">senator.hill@senate.ca.gov</a>	(916) 651-4013	(916) 651-4913
Jackson, Hannah-Beth	State Capitol, Room 2032 – Sacramento, CA 95818	<a href="mailto:senator.jackson@senate.ca.gov">senator.jackson@senate.ca.gov</a>	(916) 651-4019	(916) 651-4919
Leno, Mark	State Capitol, Room 5100 – Sacramento, CA 95819	<a href="mailto:senator.leno@senate.ca.gov">senator.leno@senate.ca.gov</a>	(916) 651-4011	(916) 651-4911
Pavley, Fran	State Capitol, Room 5108 – Sacramento, CA 95820	<a href="mailto:senator.pavley@sen.ca.gov">senator.pavley@sen.ca.gov</a>	(916) 651-4027	(916) 651-4927
Assembly Member Kevin Mullin, Author of AB 45	State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849 – Sacramento, CA 94249	<a href="mailto:elena.santamaria@asm.ca.gov">elena.santamaria@asm.ca.gov</a> <a href="mailto:assemblymember.mullin@assembly.ca.gov">assemblymember.mullin@assembly.ca.gov</a>	(916) 319-2022	(916) 319-2122