



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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April 28, 2010

The Honorable Wesley Chesbro
State Capitol Room 2176
Sacramento, CA 94249

Dear Assembly Member Chesbro:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 2139 (AMENDED APRIL 6, 2010)
CALIFORNIA PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP ACT**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 2139 (AB 2139), which proposes to create the California Product Stewardship Act, mandating the establishment of product stewardship plans for home-generated medical sharps, pesticides intended for residential use, and non-refillable propane cylinders. The Task Force has been an adamant supporter of product stewardship as a mechanism for protecting the public's health and safety and the environment at the source, thereby addressing the highest rung of the waste management hierarchy, source reduction, while in turn reducing costs for local governments to address the unintended environmental impacts of products.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939, as amended), 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, 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, waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

AB 2139, if enacted, would require a producer or product stewardship organization created by one or more producers of home-generated medical sharps, pesticides intended for residential use, and non-refillable propane cylinders to submit a product stewardship plan to the California Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) for approval by January 1, 2012. AB 2139 would also prohibit these covered products, on and after July 1, 2012, from being sold unless CalRecycle has approved the covered product's stewardship plan.

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Extended producer responsibility seeks to encourage manufacturers to redesign their products to minimize waste, such as excess packaging, and hold manufacturers accountable to collect and manage their products at the end of their useful life. By holding manufacturers accountable, the burden on local governments to manage product waste will be significantly lessened. The Task Force supports the establishment of meaningful producer responsibility programs in California to increase diversion of materials from landfills and protect the health and safety of all our residents.

AB 2139 would provide the ultimate flexibility to manufacturers to establish stewardship plans for their products as they deem most appropriate. Therefore the Task Force **supports** AB 2139. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



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

SK/RG:kp
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cc: Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg
Assembly Speaker John A. Perez
Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, Minority Leader
Assembly Member Martin Garrick, Minority Leader
Each Member of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Margo Reid Brown, Acting Director, CalRecycle
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor in the County of Los Angeles
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
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
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force