

City and County of San Francisco



September 24, 2009

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol
10th and L Streets
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1173 (Huffman) - OPPOSE

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The above listed organizations write to **request that you veto AB 1173 (Huffman)**. We strongly support collection and recycling of fluorescent lamps, but AB 1173 falls short in establishing a fair, comprehensive and lasting system. Specifically, this bill:

- Threatens California's successful track record on energy efficiency and global warming strategy by linking the recycling requirement to the System Benefits Charge efficiency programs to pay for the recycling of CFLs. The bill could cost California electric customers \$10 million per year and require California utilities to purchase an additional 120 million KW hours of electricity generation undermining state energy efficiency, renewable portfolio, and AB 32 Greenhouse Gas reduction goals.
- Places fiscal responsibility on compact fluorescent (CFL) manufacturers that participate in California energy efficiency programs. Those manufacturers alone are responsible for all fluorescent collection and recycling costs (including tubes), leaving other manufacturers off the hook.
- Establishes a precarious CFL recycling program which could inadvertently drive up the cost of the most efficient lamps as manufacturers opt out of efficiency program subsidies to avoid the additional cost of recycling. While CFLs do contain very small amounts of mercury, incandescent bulbs use four times more electricity than CFLs and result in proportionately greater mercury emissions from coal burning power plants.
- Provides no assurance to local governments, who are burdened now with collection and recycling costs, that a manufacturer program will be implemented to alleviate this burden. Participation is totally voluntary and once CFL funding is no longer available, or as

manufacturers decide to opt out of the subsidy, there will be no funding or system for fluorescent bulb collection or recycling.

We respectfully request that you veto AB 1173. In the coming year, we would like to work with your administration as well as a broad coalition of environmental groups, local governments, manufacturers, utilities and other stakeholders to promote a comprehensive, sustainable and fair program for fluorescent lighting recycling. We believe enactment of AB 1173 would undermine this effort.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Ralph Cavanagh
Energy Program Director
NRDC

Miriam Gordon
California Director
Clean Water Action

Jared Blumenfeld,
City and County of San Francisco
Director, Dept. of the Environment

Gene Rodrigues
Director of Energy Efficiency
Southern California Edison

Heidi Sanborn
Executive Director
California Product Stewardship Council

Mark Gaines*
Director of Customer Programs
Sempra Energy Utilities

Justin Malan
Legislative Advocate
Stopwaste.Org

**Additional signatory to this letter sent on September 17, 2009*

CC: Linda Adams, Cal EPA
Assembly Member Jared Huffman
Mark Murray, Californians Against Waste
Linda Adams, Cal EPA
Assembly Member Jared Huffman
Mark Murray, Californians Against Waste
President Michael R. Peevey, California Public Utilities Commission
Commissioner John Bohn, California Public Utilities Commission
Commissioner Rachelle Chong, California Public Utilities Commission
Administrative Law Judge David Gamson, California Public Utilities Commission
Commissioner Dian Grueneich, California Public Utilities Commission
Commissioner Timothy Simon, California Public Utilities Commission