

July 21, 2009

The Honorable Christine Kehoe, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
California State Capitol, Room
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent via e-mail: Committee staff Brendan.mccarthy@sen.ca.gov

RE: AB 1343 (HUFFMAN), ARCHITECTURAL PAINT RECOVERY PROGRAM – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Kehoe:

The California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) is an organization of 90 California local governments and hundreds of business partners, interested non-profits and individuals who are working towards a single mission: To shift California's product waste management system from one focused on government-funded and ratepayer-financed waste diversion to one that relies on producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability.

In support of our mission, CPSC strongly supports the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Framework that was adopted by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) in January 2008 and is now embodied in AB 283 (Chesbro) and co-authored by Assembly Member Huffman.

CPSC's goal is that until AB 283 becomes law, any product specific legislation be drafted to align with the EPR framework.

In regards to paint, for the past 20 years, local governments have solely shouldered the responsibility for managing leftover (postconsumer) paint. Postconsumer paint is now the single largest waste stream collected by local government household hazardous waste (HHW) programs, representing nearly 1/3rd of the waste they manage. In 2008, California HHW programs collected more than 26 million pounds of postconsumer paint, at a cost of millions of dollar to local governments and tax payers.

We strongly support AB 1343 as amended July 13, 2009 because it now aligns with the State's EPR framework via the following:

- Establishes a producer financed and managed paint stewardship program, encompassing both source reduction and paint recovery, and alleviating the State and local governments of the financial burdens associated with paint management.
- Mandates participation by all producers to ensuring a level playing field.
- Authorizes state oversight and enforcement, with costs reimbursed to the State by producers.
- Grants flexibility for producers by allowing them to design their own stewardship program, but assures a meaningful program by requiring State approval of the plans.
- Ensures transparency through the annual reporting requirement.

AB 1343 is a great example of EPR implementation, and one that has carefully addressed the needs and goals of all affected parties, including consumers, local government agencies throughout the State, the California Retailers Association, and the National Paint and Coatings Association.

We once again must thank Assembly member Huffman for leading the State's effort to integrate the principles of EPR into our outdated waste management structure, protecting our environment through improved paint recovery infrastructure, and protecting the taxpayers and ratepayers from undue fiscal burdens. We hope you will support the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,



Heidi Sanborn
Executive Director

Cc: Assemblymember Jared Huffman (Fax: 916-319-2106)