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GOVERNOR BROWN SIGNS AB 1158 TO MAXIMIZE CARPET RECYCLING, CREATE JOBS, AND HELP CALIFORNIA REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The Carpet Stewardship Program is the First of its Kind in the World

(SACRAMENTO) – Today, California Governor Jerry Brown signed carpet recycling legislation that will help California reach its target of emitting 40 percent fewer greenhouse emissions by 2030. The bill, [AB 1158](#), which was written by [Assemblymember Kansen Chu](#) (D-Milpitas) and sponsored by the [National Stewardship Action Council \(NSAC\)](#), was crafted to protect consumers and the environment by requiring manufacturers to implement a stewardship program that sets a carpet recycling goal of 24 percent by 2020.

"I applaud Governor Jerry Brown for signing my bill into law," said Assemblymember Kansen Chu (AD 25, Milpitas). "AB 1158 is the result of great collaboration between diverse stakeholders, including policy and environmental groups, labor, manufacturers, local government and recyclers. Keeping carpet out of landfills and incinerators benefits Californians and our environment. AB 1158 is a reasonable approach to improving the existing program and will protect consumers that are paying to fund carpet recycling."

"I thank Governor Brown for signing this important piece of legislation," said Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director of the National Stewardship Action Committee. "It's imperative that we increase the proper recycling of carpet as these materials are now one of the largest greenhouse emitters of any landfilled product. Nationally, [approximately 4.7 billion pounds of carpet end up in landfills each year](#). Most of the materials are plastic made from oil and have a large GHG footprint. By signing AB 1158 into law, we are not only protecting consumers by ensuring the recycling fee is used for recycling, but will be protecting the environment while creating jobs."

AB 1158 received bipartisan support by the Senate and Assembly, as well as carpet producers, like [Interface](#) and [Tandus-Centiva](#).

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The need to pass AB 1158 and expand carpet recycling include:

- Carpet is made of [99 percent plastic](#), from fossil fuel, and over [30 million pounds of carpet was incinerated](#) in California between 2011-2015
- A CalRecycle [waste characterization report](#) found carpet to comprise 1.8% of the overall disposed waste stream in California
- Recycling 1,000 square feet of carpet and pad diverts 500 lbs. of carpet and padding out of landfills [and prevents 913 lbs. of CO2](#) from being emitted into our air (the equivalent of 950 miles driven by car)
- The demand for carpet is expected [to increase to 14.6 billion square feet by 2019](#), an increase of 4.5 percent

“As President of the National Stewardship Action Council, I am very proud of the commitment shown by our organization and all the supporters of Assembly Bill 1158 to get these changes into law,” said Doug Kobold, President of NSAC. “AB 1158 will ensure transparency of the carpet recycling program and how the carpet stewardship organization running the program is spending the California fee payers money.”

“[As You Sow](#) congratulates Assemblymember Chu, the legislature and Gov. Brown for their leadership in enacting this important legislation, which moves us a step closer to high levels of recycling and recyclability for the carpet industry,” said Conrad MacKerron, Senior Vice President of As You Sow. “The bill will increase collection and ensure carpets are designed for recycling. This will spur jobs in recycling, material markets and enable closed loop production.”

NSAC’s Heidi Sanborn stated, “We are looking forward to carpet mills finally designing a robust closed-loop program to benefit the California economy and the environment.”

About NSAC – www.nsaction.us

NSAC was founded in 2015 as an affiliate of the [California Product Stewardship Council](#) (CPSC). NSAC is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization that will engage primarily in lobbying and advocacy work for EPR and Product Stewardship, anywhere in the U.S. and at any level of government interested in legislation that drives a circular economy.

NSAC’s Vision

The United States achieves a circular economy.

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Assemblymember Kansen Chu

Kansen Chu represents the 25th District in the California State Assembly, which encompasses the cities of Santa Clara, Milpitas, Newark and portions of Fremont and San Jose.

Website for Assemblymember Chu: www.assembly.ca.gov/chu

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