



California Product Stewardship Council

PO Box 216381, Sacramento CA 95821

September 19, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 48 (Saldaña) Restriction of Hazardous Substances in Electronics –Support
VIA Fax: 916-445-4633**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

We urge your support for AB 48 by Assembly Member Lori Saldaña, which will require manufacturers to phase out the use of specified hazardous materials in most consumer electronics, consistent with provisions of the European Union Restriction of Hazardous Substances (ROHS) Directive.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has found that most electronic devices exhibit characteristics of toxicity and all such devices are banned from disposal in solid waste landfills. An analysis by the California Integrated Waste Management Board reveals that more than 515,000 tons of these toxic electronics are disposed in California's environment annually. The cost to local agencies to properly manage this toxic waste stream would exceed \$275 million annually.

Human exposure to the carcinogenic substances in electronics, including lead, mercury and cadmium, can result in damage to the nervous, kidney, neurological and reproductive systems. According to the U.S. EPA, approximately 70% of the toxic heavy metals found in landfills come from electronic wastes. The EPA has also concluded that most landfills will ultimately leak.

California has a responsibility to protect public health and the environment from toxic materials. Following the European ROHS directive allows us to achieve this objective without requiring manufacturers to create a unique product line for California and ensures that California does not become the dumping ground for toxic devices that can no longer be sold in Europe.

While California should continue to enact policies and programs to increase the recycling of these devices, the most logical and cost effective strategy is to follow the lead of the Europeans and phase out the use of toxics in the first place.

We strongly urge your signature on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Carol Misseldine
Executive Director – Operations and Education

www.caproductstewardship.org

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.