



# California Product Stewardship Council

P.O. Box 2321, Mill Valley CA 94942

Assemblymember Jared Huffman  
Chair, Env. Safety and Toxic Materials  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249

March 30, 2007

## **RE: Support for AB 1109, CA Lighting Efficiency and Toxics Reduction Act**

Dear Assemblymember Huffman,

The California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) applauds your leadership in fostering the use of energy efficient, reduced toxicity lighting and advancing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) recycling opportunities through your introduction of AB 1109; we enthusiastically support this bill.

Emerging lighting initiatives throughout the world are advancing the imperative of improving lighting efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions and we support those efforts. However, replacing inefficient lights with efficient ones alone is insufficient to ensure environmental protection.

A holistic approach to promoting the use of energy efficient lighting requires safe disposal at the end of their useful life. CFLs, currently the most widely used energy efficient lights, are banned from California landfills because they contain mercury. The tremendous burden of ensuring their safe recycling is currently borne by local government, which many suggest is an unfunded mandate. In addition, local government infrastructure and resources are utterly insufficient to meet the needs of collecting and managing this toxic waste product. Current recycling rates for CFLs are estimated at 2% which means that mercury continues to be dispersed throughout the environment.

Furthermore, because the public pays the recycling and disposal costs of privately manufactured products, government funded waste collection and disposal actually subsidizes and thereby increases waste production. The lack of clear economic signals to manufacturers serves as a dis-incentive to produce durable, easily recyclable, non-toxic products.

The solution is for the private sector to take responsibility for their products throughout their life cycle, including end of life. AB 1109's requirement for lighting manufacturers to provide recycling and disposal services for their products accomplishes this objective.

Thank you for your leadership in promoting energy efficiency and producer responsibility through AB 1109. Please let CPSC know how we can help to ensure the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Carol Misseldine  
Director

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**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.