

September 8, 2010

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor of California  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
**SENT VIA FAX: (916) 558-3177**

**RE: AB 2398 (Perez) Carpet Product Stewardship – Support**

The Honorable Governor Schwarzenegger:

The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (SCWMA) is a California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB)-approved Regional Agency comprised of all the jurisdictions in Sonoma County tasked with many of the responsibilities of AB 939, including management of household hazardous wastes. In June 2001, the SCWMA, recognizing that Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a waste management approach that significantly improves our ability to manage discarded hazardous products, approved a resolution supporting EPR policies and efforts by governmental and non-governmental organizations to develop such policies.

The SCWMA supports Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies that shift California's product waste management system from one focused on local government funded and ratepayer financed to one that relies on producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability.

On behalf of the SCWMA, we are asking you to sign AB 2398 into law, a bill that supports a product stewardship approach to recycling waste carpet that will create new manufacturing jobs in California.

If AB 2398 should become law, California will see benefits in private sector jobs, reduced need for landfills, and savings to taxpayers and ratepayers who no longer will have to pay for used carpet to be managed.

Please see the following important facts about carpet:

- Carpet comprises 3.2 percent of all waste disposed in California, approximately 400 million PPY.

- Carpet is bulky and difficult to manage at landfills and never breaks down in landfills.
- Carpet has the fourth largest greenhouse gas footprint of any product waste in California.
- Recycling one ton of carpet reduces approximately 4,900 lbs. of eCO2.
- It takes 5 lbs of oil to make 1 lb of nylon.
- According to the Waste Characterization Study in 2008, California disposes of 1.3 million tons of carpet annually. At an average disposal cost of \$40 per ton that costs California taxpayers and garbage ratepayers **\$52,000,000 per year** to dispose of carpet!

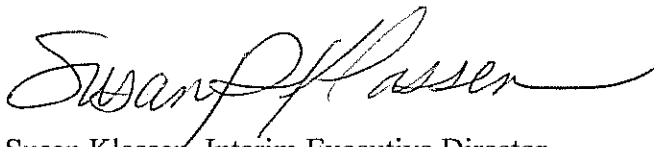
In addition, California has been working with the carpet industry since 2002 and participated in an MOU where the industry agreed to reach 25% recycling by 2012. The carpet industry did not meet that voluntary goal even with government support and now agrees that what is needed is a mandatory program that eliminates the “free-riders” and ensures that all carpet manufacturers are funding, designing, and participating in a carpet recovery program.

AB 2398 envisions a program funded/operated by the private sector with limited governmental involvement, thereby saving money for both state and local governments. There are several carpet recyclers in this state that will grow to recover more carpet creating jobs in California as well as out of state companies looking to site plants in California if this bill becomes law.

Currently, California companies like Los Angeles Fiber (Vernon, CA) and Bentley Prince Street (City of Industry, CA) are recycling old carpet into new carpet and carpet pad and they will expand and create jobs if the new law moves forward.

The SCWMA encourages you to sign this bill to stimulate the creation of jobs in California recycling waste carpet that was once a liability and cost to taxpayers and now can become a part of our economy once again.

Sincerely,



Susan Klassen, Interim Executive Director  
Sonoma County Waste Management Agency

Cc: Assembly Speaker John Perez Fax: (916) 319-2192  
SCWMA Board Members