



SFEnvironment

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GAVIN NEWSOM
Mayor

JARED BLUMENFELD
Director

September 24, 2007
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 48 Restriction of Hazardous Substances Extension—(Support)

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

The City/County of San Francisco would like to express its support for AB 48, which would phase out the use of hazardous materials in all consumer electronics.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control has determined that most electronic devices are toxic and are now banned from landfills under the state's Universal Waste Regulation. Local governments, like San Francisco, are saddled with the responsibility of diverting the mounting tonnage of electronic devices from landfills and ensuring that their toxic components are properly handled for recycling. As more and more electronic devices reach the end of their useful life, this responsibility becomes untenable under current municipal budgets.

The only long-term solution to this problem is to phase out the use of unnecessary toxic components in electronic devices. "Cleaner" electronic products will enable local governments and partners to find safe and efficient options for recycling. Other countries have led the way in requiring manufacturers to phase out toxic elements in their products. The European Union's Restriction on Hazardous Substances (RoHS) directive offers California an excellent blueprint for such a policy.

In 2003, the legislature adopted SB 20 (Sher), the E-waste Recycling Act, which included a provision establishing a phase out of the use of specified toxic materials in 'covered electronic devices' (CED's), which are currently limited to electronic devices containing a screen larger than 4 inches. This bill would amend the definition of CED's to include virtually all consumer electronics consistent with the RoHS directive.

San Francisco and other local governments need the State's assistance in ensuring products are constructed in the least hazardous manner possible. Thus, we support this bill and its attempt to protect the health and safety of all Californians.

Sincerely,

Jared Blumenfeld
Director, Department of the Environment