



October 2, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 48 (Saldaña): REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV) supports AB 48 (Saldaña) and respectfully requests that you sign the bill into law.

AB 48 requires manufacturers of consumer electronic products to phase out the use of non-essential toxic materials in their products by 2010. AB 48 builds on existing California law, which requires TV and computer monitor manufacturers to phase out the use of toxic materials. Manufacturers of consumer electronic products, most of whom also sell into the European market, are already meeting these requirements in Europe.

Without AB 48, California consumers and solid waste management companies will be in a legal "Catch-22" situation. Most consumer electronics, including personal computers, cell phones, and an array of other products, contain hazardous levels of lead and other toxic materials. Californians dispose of more than 500,000 tons of these products every year, and most go to solid waste landfills. Yet the Department of Toxic Substances Control determined in 2006 that most electronic devices contain toxic materials and thus have been prohibited from disposal as solid waste. Consumers and solid waste companies are put in the position of having no alternative but to dispose of these products in such a way that violates the state's own rules.

The most efficient way to address this problem is at the source, by prohibiting the use of toxic materials in the products in the first place. Manufacturers can certainly meet these requirements, as they are currently doing for the European market – which is larger than the U.S. market. AB 48 was thoroughly negotiated with many different sectors of the electronics industry to address special circumstances faced by some products.

Without AB 48, California landfills will continue to receive products containing toxic materials, and California will run the risk of being a dumping ground for products with toxic materials that can no longer be sold in Europe and other countries that prohibit such products. For the benefit of California's environment and public health, we should be a leader, not a laggard, on removing toxic materials from consumer electronic products. For these reasons, CLCV supports AB 48 and urges your signature on this important measure.

Sincerely,

PETE PRICE
Governmental Affairs Representative
(916) 448-1015

cc: Assemblywoman Saldaña
Mr. Chris Kahn