

# COMPUTER TAKE ← BACK CAMPAIGN

Take it back

Make it clean

Recycle responsibly

October 6, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
**FAX: 916-445-4633**

## **RE: AB 48 (Saldaña) Restriction of Hazardous Substances in Electronics -- Support**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

We urge you to sign Assembly Bill 48 (Saldaña), which will expand existing California law to 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 Computer TakeBack Campaign's goal is to promote green design and responsible recycling in consumer electronics in the US. Because these products contain so many highly toxic materials, it is expensive and challenging to recycle them. While these companies talk about voluntary steps to green their products, we see the biggest advancement when governments require them to phase out specific toxic materials by specific dates. The California law mandating phase-outs of heavy metals from display devices is helping to drive green design. But AB 48 would expand this directive to all consumer electronic products, including smaller ones that are more likely to be tossed into the trash. It will also include the other toxic materials (not just heavy metals) covered by the ROHS Directive – specifically certain brominated flame retardants. It's the presence of contaminants such as these flame retardants that makes it impossible to recycle millions of pounds of plastics from electronic devices back into new electronic products.

Manufacturers frequently state that they are already selling ROHS-Compliant products in global markets, not just in Europe. So this law shouldn't pose a hardship for them. It should also ensure that California is not a dumping ground for toxic devices that can no longer be sold in Europe.

We strongly urge your signature of this measure into law.

Sincerely,



Barbara Kyle, Coordinator  
Computer TakeBack Campaign