



October 4, 2007

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

**RE: SUPPORT AB 48 (Saldaña)
Restriction of Hazardous Substances in Electronics**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

As part of our local resolution to support Extended Producer Responsibility and as an associate of the California Product Stewardship Council, we urge your signature of Assembly Bill 48 by Assembly Member Lori Saldaña, which will expand existing California law to require manufacturers to phase out the use of specified, non-essential hazardous materials in most consumer electronics, consistent with provisions of the European Union Restriction of Hazardous Substances (ROHS) Directive.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has found that most electronic devices 'exhibit the characteristics of toxicity,' and such devices are banned from disposal in solid waste landfills. Moreover, an analysis by the California Integrated Waste Management Board reveals that Californians discard of more than 515,000 tons of these toxic electronics annually. The cost to local agencies of properly managing this toxic waste stream would exceed \$275 million annually.

While California has and will continue to enact and promote policies and programs to increase the recycling of these devices, the most logical and cost effective strategy is to follow the lead of the Europeans and phase out the use of toxics in the first place.

This measure builds on existing California law and will prohibit the sale of any electronic device in the state that cannot be sold in Europe due to their toxicity. California has a responsibility to protect public health and the environment from the exposure of harmful and toxic materials. Following the European ROHS directive allows for the opportunity to achieve this objective without requiring manufacturers to create a unique product line for California. At the same time, the adoption of this measure ensures that California does not become the dumping ground for toxic devices that can no longer be sold in Europe.

We strongly urge your signature of this measure into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Wells".

Ken Wells, Executive Director
Sonoma County Waste Management Agency

c: Californians Against Waste via FAX: 916-443-3912
Assembly member Lori Saldaña via FAX: 916-319-2176

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