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May 18, 2015

The Honorable Jimmy Gomez
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 1159: SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALKALINE BATTERY AND NEEDLE MANAGEMENT - SUPPORT

Dear Chairperson Gomez:

The California Recycling and Resource Recovery Association (CRRA) supports AB 1159, which would create a Product Stewardship Pilot Program and would require producers of home-generated sharps waste or household batteries to develop a stewardship plan. The majority of our members are local governments and the companies that support local governments in their materials management programs.

AB 1159 is a pilot-program that seeks to demonstrate the effectiveness and potential application of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs. It will require producers of household batteries and sharps to design, implement and manage customized collection systems that are safe and convenient for California consumers to use for recycling and disposal.

AB 1159 does not require manufacturers to bear the full responsibility for the impact of these products – but it does require a contribution to the efforts already funded by taxpayers and managed by local governments. AB 1159 recognizes that industry has a role in managing the end-of-life consequences for products they produce that have substantial societal impacts.

We are also in strong support of this important legislation for these additional reasons:

- Our members incur significant cost and risk associated with managing these products and trying to prevent them from entering landfills where they pose environmental hazards.

The views expressed in this letter do not necessarily represent those of the Sponsors listed above.

- Needle stick injuries resulting from inappropriate management of sharps are of great concern to CRRA members because of the undue health risk to public and private sector employees engaged in the handling of materials.
- The Pilot Program allows us to test the efficacy of a more convenient approach which may significantly improve the recovery rate for these dangerous products while reducing cost to local government and risk to worker's health and safety.

Sincerely,

John H Dane

John H. Dane
Executive Director, CRRA

cc: Members of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations Fax: (916) 319-2181

Assembly Member Richard Gordon
Assembly Member Das Williams
Assembly Member Mark Stone

CRRA is California's state-wide recycling association. It is the oldest and one of the largest non-profit recycling organizations in the United States. A 501(c)(3) organization, CRRA is dedicated to achieving environmental sustainability in and beyond California through Zero Waste strategies including product stewardship, waste prevention, reuse, recycling and composting. CRRA advances local, regional and state-wide waste reduction efforts which result in critical environmental and climate protection outcomes. Our members represent all aspects of California's reduce-reuse-recycle-compost economy. They work for cities and counties, as well as hauling companies, material processors, non-profit organizations, state agencies, and in allied professions.