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August 10, 2015

Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
County of Los Angeles
Sent via Facsimile: (213) 217-4979

Re: SUPPORT - County of Los Angeles Safe Drug and Medical Sharps Disposal EPR Ordinance

Dear Mayor Antonovich,

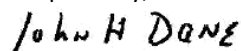
On behalf of California Resource Recovery Association, we wish to express our strong support for the motion by Mayor Antonovich to develop and introduce an extended producer responsibility (EPR) ordinance for the safe disposal of drugs and medical sharps. If adopted, the ordinance will require manufacturers of drugs and medical sharps covered by the ordinance to develop, implement, and fund safe and convenient programs for the disposal of home-generated pharmaceutical and sharps waste.

Similar ordinances for medicines have already passed unanimously in Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties in California and Marin is expected for a final vote Tuesday August 11, 2015. A challenge by the pharmaceutical company associations to Alameda's ordinance was challenged in 2012 and upheld in the Supreme Court in May of 2015 and the court could not find any burden when there were almost a billion dollars of drugs sold into Alameda in one year and the program was estimated to cost between \$330,000 – \$1.2 million.

There are many other countries and provinces of Canada that operate producer designed and funded medicine and sharps take-back programs including most countries of Europe, Columbia, Brazil, and Mexico. Nowhere in the world has there been any noticeable increase in drug prices due to this program, but there has certainly been a noticeable improvement in ability for the public to safely dispose of medicines and needles to protect public health and the environment.

We hope you direct staff to quickly begin the stakeholder meetings and let the public voice its opinion on this issue. You will receive broad support for this measure as we have seen in the state legislation that was heavily lobbied against by the pharmaceutical industry which resulted in the need for adoption of these ordinances.

Respectfully,



John H. Dane
Executive Director

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.