



April 15, 2025

The Honorable Senator Umberg, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3240
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: SB 501 (Allen): Household Hazardous Waste Producer Responsibility Act SUPPORT

Dear Chair Umberg,

We, the undersigned, write to express our **strong support for SB 501 (Allen)**, as amended April 7, 2025, which will establish Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW).

HHW is a broad category of many common products used daily by consumers that contain hazardous materials. HHW requires special handling and disposal, as it is illegal to dispose of HHW in the garbage, down storm drains, or onto the ground. When illegally or improperly disposed of, chemicals in HHW can be released into the environment and contaminate our air, water, and food supply. Maybe most importantly, improperly disposed HHW exposes recycling and waste workers to avoidable dangers and increases insurance costs to operators. Waste management collection is the fourth deadliest job in the country based on data from the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics

California's HHW collection and management system is underfunded, inconvenient, and does not collect a majority of what is generated. According to [California's Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling](#) (Commission), which was comprised of 16 experts representing materials management companies, local governments, unions, and NGOs, "our current system for managing HHW is both a significant public expense, and also an expensive failure." The first policy recommendation the Commission unanimously approved was to "pass an EPR Framework bill delegating to either CalEPA, CalRecycle and/or DTSC the authority to develop criteria and identify toxic products each year to be transitioned to EPR programs until such a time that no toxic or hazardous products are costing local governments money to manage."

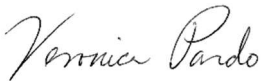
The legislature has embraced the goal of achieving a Circular Economy and already passed laws that address some HHW products including mercury thermostats, paint, medications and needles, and batteries. California can continue to pass legislation for one product at a time or pass SB 501 which would cover some of the most dangerous and costly HHW not already under a program, with mechanisms for the Department of Toxic Substances Control to add problematic HHW products as they arise.

For these reasons, we **strongly support SB 501** and respectfully urge your Aye vote when it is heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Sincerely,



Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director
National Stewardship Action Council



Veronica Pardo, Executive Director
Resource Recovery Coalition of CA



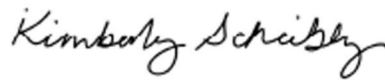
Catherine Dodd PhD RN, Health Policy
Advisor
FACTS Families Advocating for Chemical
and Toxic Safety



Shira Lane, CEO
Atrium 916



Tracie Onstad Bills, Executive Director
California Resource Recovery Association
(CRRA)



Kimberly Scheibly, Executive Director
Zero Waste Marin



Tony Hackett, Policy Associate
Californians Against Waste



Jackie Nunez, Founder
The Last Plastic Straw



Dianna Cohen, Co-Founder & CEO
Plastic Pollution Coalition



Leslie Tamminen, Earth Sciences Director
7th Generation Advisors



Melissa Jung, Reuse Networks Manager
Upstream



James Moore, Director
Merced County Regional Waste
Management Authority



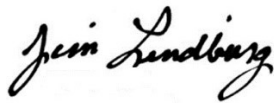
Emily Parker, Marine Scientist
Heal the Bay



Shell Cleave, Founder
Sea Hugger



Timothy Burroughs, Executive Director
StopWaste



Jim Lindburg, Legislative Consultant
Friends Committee on Legislation of
California



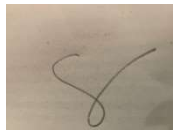
Julia Mangin, Director of Sustainability and
Government Affairs
Recology



Tim Dewey-Mattia, Recycling & Public
Education Manager
Napa Recycling & Waste Services



Joe LaMariana, Executive Director
ReThink Waste



Cheryl Auger, President
Ban SUP (Single Use Plastics)



Suzanne Hume, Educational Director &
Founder
CleanEarth4Kids.org



Gabriela Facio, Senior Policy Strategist
Sierra Club California



Sarah Elrich, Policy Advisor
Center for Environmental Health



Scott Scholz, General Manager
Western Placer Waste Management
Authority



Freddy Coronado, President
Northern California Recycling Association

Alison Waliszewski, Director of Regional
Policy & Program Development
5 Gyres

Ben Eichenberg, Staff Attorney
San Francisco Baykeeper

Marco Gonzalez, Executive Director
Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation
(CERF)

Mackenzie Wieser, CEO
Sacramento Splash

Jenn Engstrom, State Director
California Public Interest Research Group
(CalPIRG)

Marie Powers, Executive Assistant
Marine Sanitary Services

Mike Caprio, Director of Government
Affairs
Republic Services

Paul Freund, Agency Manager
Tehama County Solid Waste Management
Agency

Curtis Larkin, Chair
SWANA California Chapters Legislative
Task Force