



The Honorable Catherine Blakespear
Member, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7720
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Thomas Umberg
Member, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6610
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 936 Support
As Introduced January 29, 2026**

Dear Senators Blakespear and Umberg:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], we are pleased to support your SB 936, banning the sale of nitrous oxide for illicit purposes.

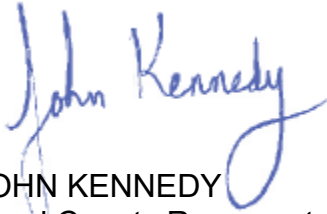
Senate Bill 936 bans the sale of nitrous oxide, which is widely used as an illicit recreational inhalant. Aside from serious and sobering public health and safety impacts associated with its illicit use as a party drug, large nitrous oxide cylinders are a growing and expensive waste management problem.

Local agencies are responsible for the collection, processing, recycling and disposal of solid waste, including the operation of local household hazardous waste (HHW) collection programs. Local agencies often contract with solid waste enterprises to provide these services. These programs typically offer residents free drop-off of HHW; however, the cost to manage some of the waste streams are significant and put serious financial pressure on both the programs and local governments that operate them. While some consumers properly dispose of nitrous oxide cylinders at the local HHW collection facility, others are found in recycling carts because residents believe their metal content makes them recyclable. These must be diverted to the local HHW facilities and managed as HHW. The cost for local governments to manage nitrous oxide cylinders exceeds the initial purchase price that consumers pay at the point of sale. While large whippets can be purchased for \$40-\$70 each, they typically cost local agencies \$70-\$120 each to manage. These costs are not sustainable.

Local governments and the solid waste industry have no control over what products are introduced into the marketplace and for which we will ultimately be responsible for management and disposal. By banning the sale of large nitrous oxide containers, SB 936 will significantly reduce cost pressures and management challenges for local solid waste programs and their operators.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support your SB 936. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY
Rural County Representatives of California
Senior Policy Advocate
jkennedy@rccrcnet.org

cc: The Honorable Juan Alanis, California State Assembly

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