



April 22, 2015

TO: The Honorable Kevin Mullin, Assemblymember, 22nd District

FROM: Signatories

RE: AB 45 – Household Hazardous Waste Program Without Producer Responsibility – OPPOSE

Assemblymember Mullin:

The parties listed above are writing to respectfully express our opposition to AB 45, which would impose an unfunded mandate on local governments to increase collection for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) in accordance with unspecified goals and timeframes and require CalRecycle develop a model ordinance for a more “comprehensive” approach which includes curbside collection. Our opposition is in part because nothing in the bill requires any source reduction of HHW or responsibility by producers of those toxic and otherwise dangerous products to reduce those hazards and align with AB 939 waste hierarchy of source reduction first, then recycling, then safe disposal.

We share your concern that HHW should be managed properly and be more convenient to properly collect and manage. However, we are concerned that a mandate on local governments, who are already technically required to divert 100 percent of HHW from landfill by significantly increasing garbage rates and/or taxes or unnecessarily shift funding from already mandated recycling and composting programs.

In addition, we believe that Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a vital component of the state's hazardous waste reduction strategy as supported by CalRecycle's plan to achieve the 75% recycling goal. EPR provides an economic incentive to manufacturers to make their products less toxic and easier to process at the end of the product's useful life as the cost of managing a portion of the end-of-life impacts is imbedded in the company's bottom line. We believe that source reduction is a vital component of any legislation to drive down costs and meet the highest environmental standards to deal with managing HHW or any product that becomes waste.

We appreciate your attention to this important subject, as well as your efforts to identify a role for industry stakeholders. However, for the reasons outlined above we must respectfully oppose AB 45 as it is currently drafted.

Sincerely,

Andria Ventura, Toxics Program Manager, Clean Water Action

Amy Trainer, JD, Executive Director, Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

Edward Moreno, Policy Advocate, Sierra Club California

Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director, California Product Stewardship Council

Leslie Mintz Tamminen, Ocean Program Director, Seventh Generation Advisors

Nick Lapis, Legislative Coordinator, Californians Against Waste