



GAIL FARBER
CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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May 20, 2009

The Honorable Wesley Chesbro
State Capitol Room 2176
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

Dear Assembly Member Chesbro:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 283 (AMENDED APRIL 13, 2009)
SOLID WASTE: EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) would like to convey its position of **support** and **amend** for Assembly Bill 283 (AB 283), which proposes to create the California Product Stewardship Act of 2009. The Task Force has been an adamant supporter of product stewardship as a mechanism for protecting the public health and safety and the environment at the source for many years. We appreciate the most recent amendments, which have incorporated a number of suggestions previously submitted by the Task Force. In addition, we have a few remaining suggestions that would make the bill even better and reflect your support for local governments, who have been leading the efforts to address this issue.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939, as amended), the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of Los Angeles and its 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of 10 million. Consistent with these responsibilities, and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective and environmentally-sound solid waste management system in Los Angeles County, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the system on a Countywide basis. The Task Force membership includes representatives of the League of California Cities-Los Angeles County Division, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, the City of Los Angeles, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

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The Task Force has had a long-standing policy promoting and encouraging producer responsibility, and commends your sponsorship of this important legislation. Upon continued review of the legislation, we believe some aspects of the bill can be further developed so it does not unintentionally and adversely impact the intent of the legislation as well as the day-to-day activities of local jurisdictions. We are eager to work with you in this legislative process should you choose to implement some of our additional recommendations.

The Task Force suggests the following amendments for your consideration:

- AB 283, if enacted, will necessitate the accurate assessment of environmental impact of consumer products, thus a life cycle analysis should be utilized, rather than a cradle-to-cradle approach as currently stipulated in the bill.
- PRC Section 48800.7—Revise the definition to correspond with that of the California Integrated Waste Management Board's Framework for an Extended Producer Responsibility System in California, to read as follows: "Cradle-to-cradle design" means an ideal condition where the product is developed for closed-loop systems in which every ingredient is safe and beneficial, ~~either to biodegrade and be suitable to safely restore the soil or to be fully recycled into high-quality materials for subsequent product generations, again and again~~ based on a formula that includes energy, water, and materials use; greenhouse gas and other air emissions; toxic and hazardous substances; materials recovery and waste disposal; and worker safety.

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The Task Force shares your values in support of establishing a meaningful producer responsibility program in California to increase diversion of materials from landfills and protect the health and safety of all our residents. Therefore the Task Force **supports** but asks you to consider **amending** AB 283. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,

Margaret Clark

Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and
Mayor, City of Rosemead

SK/RG:cw

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cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Senate President Pro Temp Darrell Steinberg
Assembly Speaker Karen Bass
Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, Minority Leader
Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee, Minority Leader
Assembly Member Kevin de Leon, Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
Each Member of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Assembly Member Noreen Evans
Assembly Member Jared Huffman
Assembly Member Pedro Nava
Assembly Member Ira Ruskin
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor in the County of Los Angeles
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
California Product Stewardship Council
Southern California Association of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County