

April 14, 2009

The Honorable Joe Simitian, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol Room 2080
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 26 (Simitian), Home Generated Pharmaceutical and Sharps Waste – Support

Dear Chair Simitian:

The California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) thanks you for authoring SB 26 which would authorize pharmacies to accept the return of home-generated pharmaceutical and sharps waste.

CPSC is an organization of 90 California local governments and hundreds of business partners, interested non-profits and individuals who are working towards a single mission: To shift California's product waste management system from one focused on government-funded and ratepayer-financed waste diversion to one that relies on producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability.

Many unused pharmaceuticals enter either our solid waste system or our sewage system. Used sharps often are improperly disposed and can harm the general public and solid waste workers. There are currently few safe, legal and convenient ways for residents to properly dispose of unwanted pharmaceuticals and sharps and designing and funding new systems to collect these products is costly for local governments.

Product Stewardship programs for pharmaceuticals are operating well in British Columbia via a take-back system using pharmacies as the most convenient and safe option. CPSC drafted a fact sheet on this program (attached) and it is totally funded and managed by pharmaceutical manufacturers. In order to implement such a program in California, we need to remove the barriers to pharmaceutical collection at pharmacies and SB 26 achieves that goal.

We thank you for your leadership in authoring SB 26 and are in strong support of the bill.



Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director

Attached: CPSC Case Study on Stewardship Program for Pharmaceuticals in British Columbia