

September 14, 2009

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 486 (Simitian), Needle Disposal– OPPOSE sent via fax: 916-558-3160

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I am writing on behalf of the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), an organization of 95 California local governments and hundreds of business partners, interested non-profits and individuals who are working to make Product Stewardship state policy for toxic and problematic products. In support of our mission, CPSC strongly supports the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Framework adopted by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) in January 2008 and is now embodied in AB 283 (Chesbro).

Until AB 283 becomes law, CPSC works to ensure any product specific legislation be drafted to align with the EPR policy framework. Unfortunately, SB 486 does not align with the EPR framework principles.

SB 486 – OPPOSE

Sharps were banned from disposal in 2007 and local governments do not have the funding or capacity to develop and implement collection systems to manage sharps. Manufacturers of pharmaceuticals are in the best position to design and manage a collection and disposal program as they have designed and profited from these products. Additionally, the pharmaceutical manufacturers already manage a stewardship program in British Columbia for pharmaceuticals that is financed and managed by the pharmaceutical companies (case study attached), many of which sell here in California. They can do the same for sharps.

CPSC commends Senator Simitian for recognizing the tremendous burden and cost placed on local governments to manage this waste stream, but SB 486 does not ensure a producer financed and managed collection system for sharps that is accountable, transparent, and has performance goals. Therefore, **we must ask that you veto SB 486 and send the message that legislation should provide real and sustainable solutions that align with state policy.**

Sincerely,



Heidi Sanborn
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Joe Simitian
Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro

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