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## Green Chemistry Press conference December 1, 2010

My name is Heidi Sanborn and I am the Executive Director of the California Product Stewardship Council or CPSC.

CPSC is a non-profit coalition of local governments, businesses and individuals across California which formed in response to the Universal Waste Disposal Ban imposed by DTSC that went into effect in February 2006.

In short, we formed because DTSC has the authority to ban the disposal of toxic products, but previously had no authority to solve the huge problem that disposal bans create for local governments and huge costs to taxpayers and garbage ratepayers. We call these rules “Bans without Plans” and they are in essence unfunded mandates on local governments to ensure the proper management of Universal Waste - such as fluorescent lamps and household batteries - at costs up to \$7,200/ton as compared to solid waste at about \$40/ton.

CPSC believes there is a better way by instead implementing the policy direction called Extended Producer Responsibility where the responsibility for the product is primarily on the producer throughout its lifecycle but all stakeholders, including consumers, must share in the responsibility.

To that end, CPSC supported AB 1879 which authorized DTSC in section 25253 (b)(7) to impose “requirements for the manufacturer to manage the product at the end of its useful life, including recycling or responsible disposal of the consumer product.”

Now that DTSC has the authority to “Ban with a Plan”, these regulations as now written, delay that from happening for universal wastes for 5 years as they do not fit into the three categories of Personal care, cleaning and children’s products.

Another problem is that DTSC can only regulate a chemical or product if they make formal findings that the use or disposal of that product has documented human health or environmental impacts. This makes the negative health impact findings very difficult to make as they would have to be documented at the public’s expense in dollars and harm. We believe “Prevention is worth a pound of cure” and that was our hope with Green Chemistry.

In conclusion, CPSC asks DTSC to revert back to previous language on product stewardship and provide more time for comment on this significantly different version of the regulations.