

September 7, 2010

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
SENT VIA FAX: (916) 558-3160

RE: AB 2398 (Perez) Carpet Product Stewardship – Support

The Honorable Governor Schwarzenegger:

On behalf of the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), we encourage you to sign AB 2398 into law, a bill that supports a product stewardship approach to recycling waste carpet that will create new manufacturing jobs in California. CPSC is a California based non-profit comprised of businesses, local governments and their associations, working with industries and partnering with them to encourage a product stewardship approach to waste management.

If AB 2398 should become law, California will see benefits in jobs, reduced need for landfills, and savings to taxpayers and ratepayers who no longer will have to pay for used carpet to be managed as it will become a part of the purchase price where the consumer can make a fully informed market decision. CPSC has been working closely with the carpet recyclers and the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) and the author's office to find language for AB 2398 that all parties can support. CPSC looks forward to working closely with CARE and the individual carpet manufacturers and recyclers to ensure a successful stewardship program that creates California jobs and better manages our waste carpet so it becomes an economic benefit instead of a liability.

Here are some important facts about carpet:

- Carpet comprises 3.2 percent of all waste disposed in California, approx. 400 million PPY
- It is bulky and difficult to manage at landfills and never breaks down in landfills
- Carpet has the fourth largest greenhouse gas footprint of any product waste in California
- Recycling one ton of carpet reduces approximately 4,900 lbs. of eCO₂
- It takes 5 lbs of oil to make 1 lb of nylon
- According to the Waste Characterization Study in 2008, California disposes of 1.3 million tons of carpet annually. At an average disposal cost of \$40 per ton that costs California taxpayers and garbage ratepayers **\$52,000,000 per year** to dispose of carpet!

In addition, California has been working with the carpet industry since 2002 and participated in an MOU where the industry agreed to reach 25% recycling by 2012. The carpet industry did not meet that

voluntary goal even with government support and now agrees that what is needed is a mandatory program that eliminates the “free-riders” and ensures that all carpet manufacturers are funding, designing, and participating in a carpet recovery program.

AB 2398 envisions a program funded/operated by the private sector with limited governmental involvement, thereby saving money for both state and local governments.

Currently, California companies like Los Angeles Fiber (City of Vernon), The Carpet Recyclers (City of Fullerton), and Bentley Prince Street, (City of Industry), are recycling old carpet into new carpet and carpet pad and they will expand and create jobs if the bill becomes law.

CPSC encourages you to sign this bill to stimulate the creation of jobs in California recycling waste carpet that was once a liability and cost to taxpayers and now can become a part of our economy once again. This bill is a win-win-win solution and we hope we have the opportunity to show California how government and the private sector can work collaboratively to take what was a problem waste and make it into an economic benefit.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director

Cc: Assembly Speaker John Perez Fax: (916) 319-2192

Attachment: Who is CPSC?