



**California Conference
of Directors of
Environmental Health**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY**

Whereas, the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH) supports statewide efforts to hold producers responsible for product waste; and

Whereas, on February 8, 2006 California's Universal Waste Rule (CCR, Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 23) took effect that makes it illegal to throw in the garbage items defined as "universal waste," which includes household batteries, fluorescent bulbs or tubes, thermostats, other items that contain mercury, as well as electronic devices including VCR's, microwaves, cellular phones, cordless phones, printers, and radios; and

Whereas, Senate Bill 1305 has passed into law and will be implemented September 2008 making it unlawful for households to dispose any sharps waste into the municipal solid waste stream or any container used for recyclable materials; and

Whereas, it is anticipated that the list of products determined to be hazardous and therefore banned from landfills will continue to grow; and

Whereas, as additional products are declared as hazardous by the State the burden to manage these items will fall to local jurisdictions; and

Whereas, there are significant environmental and human health impacts associated with household products that present a danger to handlers or contain toxic ingredients, including mercury, lead, cadmium, and other toxic chemicals that when disposed of improperly can contaminate water supplies; and

Whereas, by covering the costs of collection and disposal, local governments are subsidizing the production of waste and the cost for recycling or disposal; and

Whereas, Extended Producer Responsibility is an environmental policy approach in which producers assume responsibility-financial and/or physical-for the management of post-consumer products, so that those who produce and use products bear the costs of recycling and proper disposal; and

Whereas, the CCDEH through its 2007 Legislative policies and priorities supports the implementation of legislation mandating producer responsibility; and

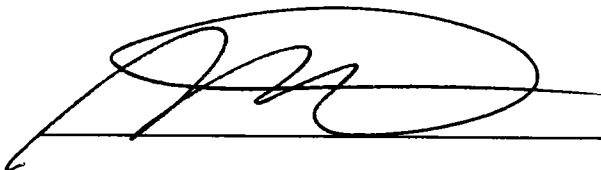
Whereas, when brand owners are responsible for ensuring their products are recycled responsibly, and when health and environmental costs are included in the product price, there is strong incentive to design and purchase goods that are more durable, easier to recycle, and less toxic; and

Whereas, it is timely to develop and support extended producer responsibility legislation to address product stewardship for hazardous products currently banned from the landfills and those which will be added to the list of banned items at any time in the future;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH THAT:

1. The CCDEH urges our representatives in Sacramento to pursue statewide extended producer responsibility legislation that will give incentive for the redesign of products to make them less toxic and easier to recycle, and shift the cost for recycling and proper disposal of products from the local government to the producer, user, and distributor of the product.
2. The CCDEH supports producer responsibility policies such as leasing products rather than purchasing them, requiring the manufacturers of products sold to offer less toxic alternatives, and requiring manufacturers of products to take responsibility for collecting and recycling their products at the end of their useful life.
3. The CCDEH will continue to support extended producer responsibility initiatives and statewide legislation beyond universal waste to cover areas including other hazardous products, bulky packaging, and items like plastics and multi-material products that are difficult to recycle.
4. The President of the CCDEH be authorized to send a letter to other professional groups and the responsible State agencies to urge support for extended producer responsibility legislation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Executive Committee of the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health on June 13 2007.



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