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## **SAN FRANCISCO RESOLUTION CALLS FOR LEGISLATION ON PRODUCT WASTE RESPONSIBILITY**

**San Francisco, California (September 16, 2008)** – The California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) applauds the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for adopting a resolution calling on state lawmakers to enact legislation that will shift costs and responsibilities for waste management from local governments to the producers of products.

The resolution calls for legislation based on the Extended Producer Responsibility Framework policy adopted by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) in January of this year. The policy goal shifts waste management costs and responsibilities from being solely a local government responsibility to being primarily the responsibility of the producers of products. Producers are incentivized to redesign products to make them less toxic and wasteful, more durable and repairable, and easier to reuse, recycle, and compost.

San Francisco is the largest jurisdiction in California to adopt a resolution that calls for state elected officials to enact legislation supporting the EPR Framework policy approach. San Francisco's resolution adds to the growing support and momentum toward sustainable production. Other jurisdictions that have adopted resolutions calling for state lawmakers to enact legislation include Butte County and the City of San Juan Capistrano.

"We are energized by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors' vision to support the effort to engage product producers to become part of the waste management solution," says Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director, California Product Stewardship Council. "We believe San Francisco and the other cities and counties that have adopted actionable EPR Framework resolutions are the first of many other local jurisdictions who will be adopting similar resolutions in the coming weeks and months."

The San Francisco resolution follows a Strategic Directive issued early 2007 by the California Integrated Waste Management Board to establish that producers assume the responsibility for the safe stewardship of their materials in order to promote environmental sustainability. In January 2008, the CIWMB took another step forward and adopted a specific framework for an Extended Producer Responsibility system.

"Our County is committed to continuing and expanding support for EPR policies and environmental sustainability," says San Francisco Supervisor McGoldrick, and author of the EPR framework resolution for San Francisco. "Legislation will push the EPR effort forward and

promote smart design that protects the environment and saves money by preventing costly waste.”

Extended Producer Responsibility is a concept whereby product manufacturers assume primary responsibility for their products throughout the entire life cycles of the products - from material selection to recovery and recycling. The “framework” policy is an alternative to the current piecemeal approach of laws that address individual problem products like fluorescent lamps and batteries. The framework approach establishes consistent principles, clearly defined roles for all parties, and a transparent process for adding new product types.

Currently the State bans hazardous products from disposal without authority or plans for managing them, resulting in unfunded mandates on local governments and increases in government size, garbage rates, and taxes.

“San Francisco’s resolution signals the beginning of the end to local governments providing ‘free’ disposal services to producers of toxic and throw-away products,” says Bill Sheehan, Executive Director, Product Policy Institute.

The Product Policy Institute is a nonpartisan research and education organization promoting policies that advance sustainable production, consumption and waste in North America. The CPSC, an organization of local governments and other partners, formed to support development of EPR policy and its implementation. Both CPSC and the Product Policy Institute are dedicated to reversing the trend of manufacturers producing more disposable and toxic products every year.

For more information about CPSC, call Heidi Sanborn at 916-485-7753, or go to [www.caproductstewardship.org](http://www.caproductstewardship.org). More information about the Product Policy Institute is available at [www.productpolicy.org](http://www.productpolicy.org), or Bill Sheehan, 706-613-0710.

**About the California Product Stewardship Council:**

The California Product Stewardship Council is a not-for-profit, non government agency dedicated to shifting California’s product waste management system from one focused on government funded and ratepayer financed waste diversion to one that relies on producer responsibility. CPSC has 53 participating local governments in California including San Bernardino County, Sacramento County, Mariposa County and Cities of San Francisco, Fresno and Chula Vista and the association of the Regional Council of Rural Counties. CPSC is working for product stewardship to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability.

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