



## **U.S. Conference of Mayors Adopts Producer Responsibility Resolution Led by the California Product Stewardship Council and City of West Sacramento**

Contacts: Heidi Sanborn , Executive Director, CPSC - (916) 480-9010  
Denise Kotko, Refuse & Recycling Program Manager (916) 617-4590

**West Sacramento, California – June 15, 2010** –The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) joined the National League of Cities and National Association of Counties in adopting a resolution calling for state and federal producer responsibility legislation that shifts the costs of managing problematic product and packaging waste away from taxpayers and local governments to producers, giving them the incentive to make products less toxic and easier to reuse and recycle.

The USCM resolution lead sponsor was Mayor Christopher Cabaldon of West Sacramento, California (photo) - whose city adopted a similar resolution in 2009. The list of signers included five U.S. states:



- The Honorable Christopher Cabaldon, Mayor of West Sacramento, California
- The Honorable Kevin Johnson, Mayor of Sacramento, California
- The Honorable Mike McGinn, Mayor of Seattle, Washington
- The Honorable David Maher, Mayor of Cambridge, Massachusetts
- The Honorable Patrick Hayes, Mayor of North Little Rock, Arkansas
- The Honorable Mark Burroughs, Mayor of Denton, Texas

“Local governments are in serious financial trouble and can better use resources currently going to manage waste products like batteries, needles and fluorescent lamps to fund police, fire and basic public services,” said Mayor Cabaldon. “We need manufacturers to take responsibility for what they make, not leave it to the taxpayers and ratepayers to clean-up the mess at very high costs.”

The USCM resolution, adopted at their annual meeting in Oklahoma City on June 14th, is based on a model developed by the Product Policy Institute (PPI) in 2006 that has been adopted by jurisdictions in New York, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Texas. **“Led by CPSC, California will soon adopt its 100th Product Stewardship Resolution marking a milestone!”** said John Allard, Roseville City Councilmember and Western Placer Waste Management Authority Board member.

“We cannot continue to expect government and taxpayers to design, fund and manage every product sold, said Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director of the California Product Stewardship Council. “Taxpayers and garbage ratepayers have hit their limit and so have our landfills! Requiring producers of problem products like batteries and paint to pay for their recovery, utilizes free-market competitive forces to drive down recycling costs and creates jobs in the private sector, not in the public sector.”

The resolutions are part of a movement that calls for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), also known as Product Stewardship. EPR is a policy approach common in Europe, Japan, Canada and other industrialized nations but relatively new to the United States. In the US, 22 states now have laws for discarded electronic products that require producers to finance or manage collection and provide responsible recycling which also creates jobs.

USCM is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more, promoting effective national urban/suburban policy. **The USCM resolution supports state and federal producer responsibility legislation that levels the playing field for corporations that take “cradle-to-cradle” responsibility for their products and packaging,** and urges Congress to support the ability of state governments to establish producer responsibility legislation.

**National associations of elected officials representing cities and counties have already adopted producer responsibility resolutions.** The [National League of Cities](#) and the [National Association of Counties](#) both adopted resolutions last year.

#####

More information:

- Link to California Product Stewardship Council go to [www.calpsc.org](http://www.calpsc.org).
- Link to USCM resolution on Product Policy Institute’s producer responsibility resolutions web page:  
<http://www.productpolicy.org/content/local-epr-resolutions>
- Link to extended producer responsibility background:  
<http://www.productpolicy.org/content/about-epr>
- Link to Joint Framework Principles for Product Stewardship Policy  
<http://www.productpolicy.org/content/framework-principles>
- Link to US Conference of Mayors:  
<http://www.usmayors.org/>