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PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA PASSES LANDMARK STEWARDSHIP LEGISLATION

Three New Laws Create California Jobs and Will Save Local Government Millions

Sacramento, CA (October 1, 2010) – Californians will finally have some significant fiscal relief from managing three problematic waste products: paint, carpet, and brake pads.

Late yesterday, Governor Schwarzenegger signed the last of the three producer responsibility bills for the 2010 session: AB 2398, carpet recycling, by Assembly Speaker John Perez; AB 1343, paint recycling, by Assembly member Jared Huffman; and SB 346, reducing copper in brake pads, by Senator Christine Kehoe.

All three bills were the culmination of years of negotiations between industry groups and state and local governments, waste haulers, recyclers, water associations, and solid waste professionals working towards fully funded and cost-effective solutions to these problem products. Paint is the single most expensive product collected by local governments costing Californians over \$27 million per year; carpet alone represents 3% of disposal volume in landfills and is made from petroleum products and is recyclable; and brake pads release copper, which is a serious aquatic toxin and will cost local governments millions to remove from stormwater if not reduced at the source.

“Taxpayers and ratepayers have hit their limit and want collaborative solutions that are good for the environment and the economy,” said Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director of the California Product Stewardship Council. “We have been working collaboratively with the industry associations and California’s carpet recyclers, such as LA Fiber, and paint recyclers, such as Amazon Environmental and Visions Paint Recycling, to find solutions that are win-win-win.”

Assembly speaker John Perez, author of AB 2398 stated, "I am very pleased the Governor approved my bill to promote recycling of carpets. More than 1.3 million tons of old carpets and rugs are sent to landfills every year. I introduced AB 2398 because keeping that enormous amount of materials out of landfills and reusing them instead will significantly improve sustainability in the carpet industry while promoting the growth of green jobs."

All three bills had broad support, even from the carpet, paint, and brake pad manufacturers.

California is the first state to pass producer responsibility legislation for carpet, and the second state in the U.S. to pass producer responsibility legislation for paint.

Product Stewardship, otherwise known as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach that shifts the responsibility for waste management costs from solely being the burden

of taxpayers and ratepayers to include manufacturers of products who can compete to reduce recycling costs.

California carpet recyclers worked closely with the Speaker's office on the bill language. "Thank you Governor Schwarzenegger for signing into law AB 2398, and thank you Speaker Perez for your vision to author a bill that will create jobs and keep carpet out of our landfills", said Ron Greitzer, President of Los Angeles Fiber.

"AB 2398 makes California a leader in extended producer responsibility. We would not have succeeded without the expertise and guidance of CPSC," said Pete Price, Office of the Speaker.

For more information on the bills go to www.calpsc.org

California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) educates both the public and private sectors about Product Stewardship and closely partners with business, governments, waste and recycling companies, manufacturers and others to promote and encourage sustainable practices and to recognize those companies who are taking a leadership role in participating in waste reduction. For more information, please go to: www.CalPSC.org.

LA Fiber is a family owned business struggling to make a difference. President Ron Greitzer is a board member of the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE). I have now witnessed State government, big business, and special interest groups, work together to develop a solution to our growing environmental needs. For more information go to: www.lafiber.com