



October 25, 2010

RE: Support the San Francisco Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) urges your support the San Francisco Safe Drug Disposal ordinance. 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 stewardship approach to product management.

Requiring pharmaceutical companies to design and fund the disposal of their unused products is the fair thing to do. Externalizing those costs on the taxpayer or paying for government designed and managed systems is unfair. Local governments do not profit from the sale of pharmaceuticals, the companies do. Our current system privatizes the profit and socializes the costs.

CPSC supports the extended producer responsibility (EPR) concept in this ordinance which aligns with other EPR programs which recently passed the California state legislature for carpet and paint.

There are well established EPR pharmaceutical models that already in place in a number of countries, including Spain, France, Portugal, Australia, and parts of Canada. Many of the same pharmaceutical companies that design, operate and fund those programs sell into San Francisco. I co-authored a recently published article on the issue which is attached.

In Spain, their program requires pharmaceutical manufacturers to establish the operation and collection of not just the pharmaceuticals, but the packaging they come in as well. The program has been quite successful as the amount of medicines collected increases every year since the program started.

The British Columbia program proves the drug disposal programs can be run smoothly and efficiently. A single nonprofit administers the program that. At a cost of \$315,000 Canadian dollars that is divided among the pharmaceutical manufacturers, they operate a program for a province with a population of 4.4 million.

CPSC believes that pharmaceutical companies should support a more free-market approach to pharmaceutical management and help local governments protect public health by sharing in the responsibility for proper management of pharmaceuticals.

Sincerely,

Heidi Sanborn
Executive Director

Cc: Mayor Gavin Newsom

Attachments: Who is CPSC?, Article: American Public Works Association (APWA) on Pharmaceuticals: It's Time for Producer Responsibility