



**CPSC**  
California Product  
Stewardship Council



March 14, 2025

Senator Blakespear  
1021 O Street, Suite 7340  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted via Position Letter Portal

**RE: SB 561 (Blakespear) – Hazardous waste: Emergency Distress Flare Safe Disposal Act.–  
SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Blakespear,

On behalf of the Board of the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), I write to express our **SUPPORT**, for **SB 561 (Blakespear)**, which would establish an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for emergency distress signals, referred to as Marine Flares.

The California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) was formed in June 2007 with the mission to shift California's product waste management system from one focused on government-funded and ratepayer financing to one that relies on producer responsibility to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design. CPSC wants to ensure Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs run well in California, to serve as a model for other states.

CPSC has led 10 publicly funded marine flare pilot programs to remove single-use pyrotechnic marine flares from communities by hosting temporary collection events and promoting reusable alternatives. As a result of the growing coalition and number of events, CPSC designed and operates the "[Make the Electronic Marine Flare Switch Campaign](#)," in collaboration with the California State Parks and Coastal Commission's California Boating Clean & Green Program, as well as CalRecycle. A video with public testimony on the importance of the campaign is available on CPSC's YouTube page: [youtu.be/Lj633isEWGs](https://youtu.be/Lj633isEWGs). This bill, along with the leadership shown by Senator Blakespear, helps to solve a little known, but big risk problem, that needs a solution for the safety of our communities.

The state and impacted communities need a permanent solution for this explosive and hazardous product. At CPSC's collection events in 2024, approximately 3,575 pounds of expired marine flares were collected. It [costs a local jurisdiction](#) anywhere from \$14,500 to \$28,000 to host just one marine flare collection event, with the costs only rising each year. For the City of Oceanside's marine flare collection event in 2023, it cost approximately \$45 to dispose of each single-use pyrotechnic marine flare. This cost was on the lower end, typically ranging from \$10 - \$350, as the cost of disposal per flare is dependent on the sheer number of single-use pyrotechnic flares collected at that particular event due to the significant fixed costs per event. Collection is too costly for local governments, in the absence of grants, which end after one or two events, leaving boaters confused and frustrated from lack of convenient collection opportunities.

CPSC supports SB 561 as a disposal solution for pyrotechnic marine flares. We appreciate the updated structure and content from last year's version.

SB 561 is critical for creating an end-of-life solution for a problematic product that currently has no permanent collection program. For the reasons listed above, we are proud to **SUPPORT SB 561**.

Sincerely,



Joanne Brasch, PhD  
Director of Advocacy and Outreach

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**California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC)** *developed and administers the Make the Electronic Marine Flare Switch campaign. CPSC educates both the public and private sectors about Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility, while collaborating with business, jurisdictions, waste and recycling companies, manufacturers, and others to promote and encourage sustainable practices. For more information, please go to: [www.CalPSC.org](http://www.CalPSC.org).*