



April 9, 2026

Scan to sign the coalition letter

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 7720
Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted via Position Letter Portal

RE: SB 1010 (Ashby) Refrigerants EPR – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Ashby,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we support **SB 1010 (Ashby)** which establishes an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for household cooling appliances to ensure refrigerants and other climate-damaging gases are properly managed at end of life.

Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and other cooling appliances contain refrigerants, which are gases used to absorb and release heat. Many refrigerant substances, such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), have global warming potentials that are hundreds to thousands of times greater than carbon dioxide.¹ According to the California Air Resources Board, they are the fastest-growing source of greenhouse gas emissions both in California and globally.²

Federal mandates require proper management of refrigerants prior to disposal, but without a comprehensive statewide program, improper handling during the reuse and recycling processes can result in the release of these gases into the atmosphere, undermining California's climate progress. Simultaneously, there is no statewide program for safely recovering and managing the appliances that contain refrigerants. Even California's most robust voluntary recycling efforts have reached only a fraction of appliances at end-of-life.

While existing law, AB 1760 (Eastin, 1991), prohibits disposal/landfilling of metallic waste, such as large appliances, including refrigeration units, many units are not properly processed to recover all of the hazardous components, such as HFCs, compressor oils, capacitors, etc. These components must be removed by Certified Appliance Recyclers (CAR) regulated by the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) under the CAR program. This is the classic "ban without a plan" situation that leaves the waste industry without funding for safe management to final disposition for covered products.

SB 1010 provides a permanent funded program for safely managing household refrigerated appliances in a manner aligned with other Extended Producer Programs (EPR) overseen by CalRecycle. This product category is complex, toxic, and expensive to manage. Costs for proper disposal of these units can range from \$25 per unit at publicly owned solid waste facilities to over \$125 per unit at privately owned facilities. These fees, especially the higher ones, charged at the

1. [CARB - HFCs](#)

2. [CARB - Climate Pollutants](#)

gate of solid waste facilities can cause many of these to be illegally dumped, thereby passing the costs of collection and proper recycling onto local governments. Household refrigerated appliances are a good candidate for producer funding and program design to ensure these appliances, and their components, are fully recovered and safely managed.

For these reasons, we fully support **SB 1010** and appreciate your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Doug Kobold, Executive Director
California Product Stewardship Council