



# SUPPORT CARPET RECYCLING

## YES ON AB 729 (CHU)

AB 729 reduces the amount of carpet that goes into landfills, cutting costs to local governments. It ensures that more post-consumer carpet – carpet removed from remodeled office buildings, stores, schools, and homes – is recycled into new products. It helps California consumers get their money’s worth for a program that provides major environmental protections and green economy incentives.

### **AB 729 makes California’s carpet recycling program run better.**

**THE PROBLEM:** California’s industry-run carpet stewardship program has failed to meet even basic requirements of the law. The program has faced years of enforcement efforts, including 3 straight years of noncompliance. As a result, too much recyclable carpet continues to get thrown away despite the state’s efforts to help program operators follow the law. The program also needs simple updates to protect consumers and reduce program costs. **Californians deserve a recycling program that operates at its full potential.** AB 729 is needed because:

- Collected consumer fees need to be protected – and ultimately used to recycle carpets – when the stewardship organization can’t do its job.
- The state should be able to recover full costs from oversight and enforcement efforts.
- Carpet with less financial burden on the program should have a lower consumer fee than carpet costing more.
- Penalties should be increased for non-compliance with the law.

### **MISREPRESENTATIONS BY THE OPPOSITION**

No matter how much traffic the Georgia carpet industry drives to its dishonest website, or how many calls and emails and letters that site sends to the Legislature, **AB 729 does not impose any new fees or taxes.** Labeling AB 729 a “carpet tax” is a cynical, out-of-state effort to trick California consumers into doing the industry’s dirty work. Don’t buy the hype. VOTE YES ON AB 729!

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### MORE ABOUT AB 729:

#### PROTECT CALIFORNIA CONSUMER FEE MONEY

**Current law:** An industry-led “stewardship organization” pays for the existing carpet recycling program through consumer fee money to comply with California’s recycling laws and operate the program. But current law is silent on what happens to the fee dollars if that stewardship organization can no longer operate the program.

**Solution:** AB 729 protects those fee dollars if the stewardship organization can’t do its job, and it ensures that the dollars are ultimately used to recycle post-consumer carpet.

#### ALLOW CALIFORNIA TO RECOVER FULL OVERSIGHT COSTS

**Current law:** Caps the amount of costs that the state can recover from the stewardship organization. But because the stewardship organization has failed for years to meet even the most basic requirements of the law, CalRecycle has been forced to take dramatic, almost non-stop enforcement and oversight actions. From 2014-2016, the cap created \$454,653 in unrecoverable costs to CalRecycle, an already underfunded department.

**Solution:** AB 729 allows California to fully recover these costs.

#### RESTRUCTURE EXISTING FEE TO REFLECT RECYCLABILITY

**Current law:** Applies one fee level to all carpet types sold in California, regardless of recyclability. Some types of carpet have a larger financial burden on the program than other types, creating higher costs for the recycling program.

**Solution:** AB 729 requires the Stewardship Organization to consider several factors and consider the financial burden various types of carpet when setting the fee levels.

#### IMPROVES INCENTIVES TO COMPLY WITH THE LAW

**Current law:** The carpet stewardship organization currently operating California’s carpet recycling program has been out of compliance for each year from 2013 to 2016.

**Solution:** AB 729 increases the penalties for non-compliance to create a greater incentive for compliance.

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