



March 19, 2024

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear
Member, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 7340
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 1066 – SUPPORT
As Introduced February 12, 2024**

Dear Senator Blakespear:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), we are pleased to support your Senate Bill 1066, which creates a producer responsibility program for end-of-life management of marine flares.

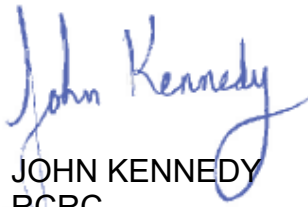
Senate Bill 1066 requires manufacturers to create, fund, and implement a producer responsibility program for the end-of-life management of expired flares. Flares are important safety and emergency devices. The U.S. Coast Guard requires marine flares to be carried on recreational boats for use as visual distress signals. While flares are vital safety devices, they generally have expiration dates of less than four years and must be managed as explosive hazardous wastes. While flares can cost consumers from \$13-\$26 each, they generally cost local governments \$46 or more per flare for disposal.

Local governments are responsible for the collection, processing, recycling and disposal of solid waste, including the operation of local household hazardous waste collection programs. These local programs provide important public services and prevent improper disposal of hazardous wastes. Our local programs often offer residents free drop off of HHW; however, the cost to manage some of the waste streams are shocking and put serious financial pressure on the programs and local governments that operate them. Many products, including flares, are far more expensive to manage at the end-of-life than it cost consumers to purchase the product at the point-of-sale. Rather than forcing local governments (and taxpayers) to shoulder those costs, SB 1066 appropriately requires the manufacturers who introduce those goods into the stream of commerce to take charge of the collection, transportation, and management of their expired flares. We also hope that SB 1066 will create clearer and more convenient disposal opportunities for consumers to safely dispose of expired flares.

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We are pleased to support your SB 1066 because it will increase convenience for consumer disposal of flares while reducing costs for local household hazardous waste programs. We also look forward to working with you on minor clarifications to the bill to improve program operation and reduce ambiguity. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact John Kennedy (RCRC) at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org, Ada Waelder (CSAC) at awaelder@counties.org, or Melissa Sparks-Kranz (Cal Cities) at msparkskranz@calcities.org.

Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY
RCRC
Senior Policy Advocate



MELISSA SPARKS-KRANZ
Cal Cities
Legislative Representative



ADA WAELDER
CSAC
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Ben Allen, Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Gabrielle Meindl, Chief Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Scott Seekatz, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus