



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

March 28, 2024

The Honorable Benjamin Allen
Member, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 6610
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 1143 – SUPPORT
As Amended March 18, 2024**

Dear Senator Allen:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we are pleased to support your Senate Bill 1143 regarding household hazardous waste. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties and our Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties.

Senate Bill 1143 requires manufacturers of certain types of products that become household hazardous wastes at the end of their useful lives to participate in a producer responsibility program to provide a free and convenient collection and management system for those products. Products included in SB 1143 include cleaners, adhesives, electronics, paints, lubricants, flammable materials, pool chemicals, universal wastes, and the like. SB 1143 exempts products that are subject to another statewide producer responsibility program and “health and beauty products.”

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, which include permanent facilities and drop-off events, provide important public services and prevent improper disposal of hazardous waste. Local governments also use local household hazardous waste programs to manage illegally disposed or abandoned household hazardous wastes, which are often dumped on public lands and rights-of-way. Our local programs often offer residents free drop-off of HHW; however, the cost to manage some of the waste streams are significant and put serious financial pressure on both the programs and local governments that operate them. The cost for local governments to manage some types of household hazardous waste can often approach or exceed the initial purchase price that consumers pay at the point of sale.

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Local governments and the solid waste industry have no control over which products will be introduced into the marketplace, and for which we will ultimately be responsible for management and disposal. We support efforts like SB 1143 to ensure that manufacturers bear financial responsibility for the management and disposal of the products they introduce into the stream of commerce – especially for waste streams that are difficult or expensive for local governments to manage. By compelling manufacturers to bear responsibility for these costs, and making proper disposal opportunities more convenient for residents, we hope that SB 1143 will drive manufacturers to improve product design to make those products safer and easier to manage at the end of their useful lives.

Because this bill will significantly reduce local costs for managing household hazardous waste and increase convenience of safe disposal opportunities, RCRC is pleased to support SB 1143. We look forward to working with you to refine and improve the bill as it moves through the Legislative process, including ensuring that local governments are fully reimbursed for their costs of managing household hazardous waste. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY
Senior Policy Advocate

cc: Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Gabrielle Meindl, Chief Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Scott Seekatz, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus