



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Board of Supervisors

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Bill Dodd
Chair

April 5, 2011

Senator Joe Simitian, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814
FAX: (916) 323-4529

RE: SB 515 (Corbett) Battery Stewardship Act - Support

Dear Senator Simitian and Committee Members:

Napa County urges your support of SB 515, which would require battery manufacturers to create and implement a stewardship program to manage batteries at end of life. We truly hope this will be the year that this needed legislation achieves success.

In February 2006, all household batteries were banned from solid waste landfills and classified as a Universal Waste because they contain heavy metals, a corrosive electrolyte, or both. Consumers can't legally put them in their trash or recycling bins, but because few options exist for their proper disposal, most are illegally disposed in landfills.

SB 515 will create a system for battery recycling in the state that will be convenient for consumers to use and facilitate high rates of battery recycling. It will alleviate the significant financial burden being placed on local governments to manage materials banned from landfills, and provide incentives for producers to make their products more recyclable and less toxic. It will also allow manufacturers to design the system that works best for their business model.

California's local governments need the battery industry to take a leadership role to manage their product waste. Local governments and taxpayers pay up to \$2,700 per ton to manage waste banned from landfills, amounting to tens of millions of dollars a year for all battery waste generated in California. Last year Napa's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility managed 40,000 tons of batteries at a cost of over \$26,000 to taxpayers. SB 515 will address this growing problem by including producers in the management of problem products at their end of life.

Brad Wagenknecht
District 1

Mark Luce
District 2

Diane Dillon
District 3

Bill Dodd
District 4

Keith Caldwell
District 5

2-2-2-2
RE: SB 515 (Corbett) Battery Stewardship Act - Support

The program envisioned in SB 515 will help California's environment by ensuring that spent batteries are properly managed by the private sector. These programs will stimulate private sector jobs that protect both public health and the environment.

Napa County strongly urges your support of SB 515 when it is heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Dodd".

Bill Dodd
Chairman, Napa County Board of Supervisors

cc: Senate Majority Leader Ellen Corbett
Senator Noreen Evans
Assemblymember Michael Allen
Peterson Consulting
Members, Board of Supervisors
Nancy Watt