



September 13, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown
 Governor, State of California
 State Capitol
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 212 (Jackson, Ting, and Gray) - Safe Medicines and Sharps Collection & Disposal
SIGNATURE REQUEST

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of the organizations below, we write to express our **STRONG SUPPORT** for **SB 212 (Jackson, Ting, & Gray)**, which will establish a comprehensive statewide take-back system for sharps and medications. We respectfully request that you **SIGN SB 212** when it comes before you. These products serve a vital need in protecting and preserving the health of Californians, but that is all the more reason to also protect Californians from the inherent risks that occur when these products are unwanted and require safe disposal. Both sharps and medications present significant and well-documented challenges for all Californians who should have access to safe and convenient disposal options because too often they end up in the trash, on riverbanks and beaches, and in our waterways.

Despite the fact that California law (SB 1305, Ch.64, Statutes of 2006) has prohibited home-generated sharps waste from being disposed of in trash or recycling containers, millions of needles are discarded improperly every year, resulting in an unacceptable risk of needle stick injuries for parks, hotel, solid waste, wastewater, sanitation and other workers as well as the general public.

[CalRecycle](#) estimates that 936 million sharps used by consumers in California each year, and approximately 31% of those are thrown in the trash. Additionally, a [2015 study by University of Massachusetts Lowell](#) estimated 7% of needles are

flushed, and needle stick injuries occur with unacceptable frequency. Improper disposal of sharps poses an unacceptable risk to many Californians, and the statewide sharps collection program contained in SB 212 will significantly reduce that risk.

Similarly, prescription and over the counter medications present significant problems when leftover if not properly secured and disposed of. There is no question that consumers have leftover drugs in their homes, which tend to be stockpiled, flushed, or thrown in the garbage. Leftover drugs and a lack of safe and convenient disposal options are fuel to the opioid epidemic and increase instances of accidental poisonings and can cause environmental harm.

SB 212 (Jackson, Ting and Gray) addresses the myriad problems that exist due to the lack of a statewide system to manage these products at the end of their useful life. By requiring manufacturers of sharps and pharmaceutical drugs to create, fund, and participate in a statewide take-back system, this bill will take a groundbreaking step to ensure that California residents throughout the state have access to safe, convenient disposal methods of sharps and drugs to address important public health concerns.

This concept is built off well-functioning programs that exist all over the world. Effective take-back programs for these products are operated by manufacturers in [Canada, Mexico, many countries in Europe and South America](#), 12 local jurisdictions throughout California (9 counties and three cities in Santa Cruz County). Establishing a comprehensive statewide system will provide harmonization and clarity for manufacturers and consumers alike.

California has debated this issue for long enough. We strongly urge you to take this logical next step to protect California consumers and workers. For these reasons, the organizations below are pleased to express our **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB 212 (Jackson, Ting and Gray)** and respectfully request that you **SIGN** this legislation when it comes before you.

Sincerely,

Doug Kobold, Executive Director, California Product Stewardship Council

Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director, National Stewardship Action Council

William Grimes, Hazardous Materials Program Manager, County of Santa Clara

Mike Mohajer, Commissioner, Los Angeles County SWM Committee/IWM Task Force

Christina Piles, Public Works Supervisor, City of Redding

Kevin Miller, Materials Diversion Administrator, City of Napa

Tedd Ward, M.S., Director, Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority

Upper Valley Waste Management Agency

Timothy Healy, General Manager, Napa Sanitation District

Jessica Gauger, Director of Legislative Advocacy, California Association of Sanitation Agencies

Garth Schultz, Principal, R3 Consulting Group

Beverly Hanstrom, Chief Executive Officer and Owner, Colorado Medical Waste, Inc.

Steve Devine, Program Manager, Zero Waste Marin

Glenn Hendricks, Mayor, City of Sunnyvale

John Davis, Administrator, Mojave Desert and Mountain Recycling Authority

Teresa Herrera, Manager, Silicon Valley Clean Water

Terrie Mitchell, Manager, Legislative & Regulatory Affairs, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Craig M. Pope, Director, Kern County Public Works Department

Teresa Herrera, Manager, Silicon Valley Clean Water
Lavell Waiwaiole, Recycling Program Coordinator, Calaveras County Integrated Waste Management
Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, The Russian River Watershed Association
Autumn Cleave, Chair, Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group
Steve Rodowick, Butte County Recycling Coordinator/CPSC Board Member
Patrick Carter, Executive Director, Sonoma County Waste Management Agency
Joe La Mariana, Executive Director, RethinkWaste
Hernan Molina, Governmental Affairs Liaison, City of West Hollywood
Desi Reno, Integrated Waste Manager, San Joaquin County Department of Public Works
Manuel Medrano, Senior Recycling Specialist, City of Chula Vista
City of San Jose
James D. Herberg, General Manager, Orange County Sanitation District
Colleen Foster, President, California Resource Recovery Association
David Stitzhal, President, Full Circle Environmental, Inc.
Wendy Sommer, Executive Director, StopWaste
Jacob Panero, Chief Executive Director, Metropolitan Recycling LLC
Dan McIntyre, General Manager, Dublin San Ramon Services District
Sharon N. Green, Legislative & Regulatory Liaison, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
April Rovero, Executive Director, National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse
Roger S. Bailey, General Manager, Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
Hene Kelly, Legislative Director, California Alliance for Retired Americans
Robert Carlson, General Manager, Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority
Stephanie Ulmer, Environmental Resources Specialist, Western Placer Waste Management Authority
Kat DeBurgh, MPH, Executive Director, Health Officers Association of California
Leslie Mintz Tamminen, Director, Seventh Generation Advisors
Dianna Cohen, Chief Executive Officer, Plastic Pollution Coalition
Anna Cummins, Co-Founder, Director of Global Strategy, The 5 Gyres Institute
Mary Luna, Coastal and Marine Scientist, Heal the Bay
Vince De Lange, General Manager, Delta Diablo
Andria Ventura, Toxics Program Manager, Clean Water Action
Faith Conley, Legislative Representative, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Frederick S. Mayer, R.Ph. MPH, FACA, Chief Executive Officer, Pharmacists Planning Services, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
The Honorable Phil Ting, 19th Assembly District

The Honorable Adam Gray, 21st Assembly District
Graciela Castillo-Krings, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Brown