



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

825 5th Street, Suite 111, Eureka, CA 95501-1153
Telephone (707) 476-2390 cob@co.humboldt.ca.us

March 26, 2024

The Honorable Senator Ben Allen
1021 O Street, Suite 3230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1143 (Allen): Household Hazardous Waste Producer Responsibility Act – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Allen,

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors writes to express strong support for SB 1143, which will establish Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW).

HHW is a broad category of many common products used daily by consumers that contain hazardous materials. HHW requires special handling and disposal, as it is illegal to dispose of HHW in the garbage, down storm drains, or onto the ground. When illegally or improperly disposed of, chemicals in HHW can be released into the environment and contaminate our air, water, and food supply. Improperly disposed HHW exposes recycling and waste workers to avoidable dangers and increases insurance costs to operators. California's HHW collection and management system is underfunded, inconvenient, and does not collect a majority of what is generated.

As a solid waste regulator in Humboldt, we understand the critical importance of effectively managing HHW to protect public health and the environment. Our county is responsible for ensuring compliance with waste disposal regulations and providing residents with safe and convenient disposal options. However, the current system presents numerous challenges, including funding constraints and limited accessibility to proper disposal facilities.

SB 1143 represents a significant step forward in addressing these challenges by shifting the responsibility for HHW management from local jurisdictions to the producers of these hazardous products. By establishing an EPR program, SB 1143 will not only alleviate the financial burden on local governments but also ensure a more equitable distribution of costs among producers.

The state has embraced the goal of achieving a Circular Economy, and the legislature has already passed similar legislation addressing some HHW products including mercury thermostats, paint, medications and needles, and batteries. The [California Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling](#) was comprised of 16 experts representing materials management companies, local governments, unions, and NGOs and unanimously recommended that the legislature, “establish EPR programs for the product categories below to reduce known fire and operational hazards”, which included HHW.

For these reasons, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors supports SB 1143 and respectfully urges your Aye vote when it is heard in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

Sincerely,

Rex Bohn
Chair, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

CC: Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Senator Mike McGuire
Assemblymember Jim Wood
California State Association of Counties
Rural County Representatives of California
Shaw / Yoder / Antwih / Schmelzer / Lange