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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
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## COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

January 22, 2016

Speaker Pro-Tempore Kevin Mullin  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0022

Fax: 916-319-2122

***RE: AB 45 – Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) – OPPOSE***

Dear Speaker Pro-Tempore Mullin:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to reiterate our opposition to AB 45 Household Hazardous Waste. While the County of Santa Barbara is a strong implementer of diversion programs and currently has an impressive diversion rate of 75%, we cannot support your current diversion legislation, AB 45, as amended on January 21, 2016. By requiring jurisdictions to adopt a model ordinance created by the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), we believe this legislation does not provide adequate flexibility in managing the complex HHW waste stream. Furthermore, we object to home-generated pharmaceutical waste being included in the proposed comprehensive hazardous waste program, as neither our state nor federal regulating agencies currently regulate it as such.

The County has operated a successful HHW collection program since 1985 by first holding one-day collection events, and then in 1993 adding a permanent, year-round collection center co-located at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Additionally, the County offers electronics recycling at all of its transfer stations and through one-day events. In Fiscal Year 2014-15, the County collected 1,261,625 pounds of waste through this comprehensive program.

Up until 2008, the County also ran a curbside program for the collection of used motor oil, oil filters, and latex paint. Over the years, the program grew less utilized as additional automotive supply stores and quick lubes began accepting used oil and filters from the public. Right before the County discontinued the curbside program, our costs averaged \$9.98 per pound, compared to \$1.27 per pound for our permanent HHW facility. The volume of oil collected also differed dramatically. In Fiscal Year 2006-07, 313 gallons of used motor oil were collected through the curbside program compared to approximately 11,000 gallons of oil collected at permanent centers.

As witnessed by our used motor oil collection program, consumers are supportive of dropping off their HHW at stores they already visit to buy new household products. The County supports this type of collection system in which retailers play a prominent role. Other types of waste that are successfully collected at the point-of-sale include paint, fluorescent bulbs, batteries, and cell phones.

We believe that retailers and manufacturers should participate in the end-of-life management of the products they put on the market. To this end, in 2011 our County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution supporting Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). We are currently working on a pharmaceutical waste EPR ordinance that will significantly reduce costs to the County while increasing convenience of disposal for the public.

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We are disappointed that AB 45 moves away from this shared responsibility approach and instead continues to make local jurisdictions solely responsible for collecting HHW. The recent amendments mention a non-profit organization that will provide grants to jurisdictions for HHW programs, but we are not clear how this non-profit will be formed or how the funds will be generated. If nothing else, clarification on this provision is needed.

Furthermore, the legislation is in opposition to the County's Adopted 2016 Legislative Platform. For these reasons, Santa Barbara County opposes AB 45 as amended and respectfully requests that you consider our concerns. If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or [jtoney@countyofsb.org](mailto:jtoney@countyofsb.org).

Sincerely,



Peter Adam  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates  
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates  
Cara Martinson, Legislative Representative, CSAC  
Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works, County of Santa Barbara