



SWANA[®]
SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

April 8, 2015

The Honorable Jerry Hill
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814

CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS

FOUNDING

SIERRA

GOLD RUSH

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

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**RE: SB 47 (Hill) – Environmental health: synthetic turf
CONCERN**

Dear Senator Hill,

The California Chapters of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) represent much of the publicly-owned and -operated solid waste management infrastructure in the state and the local governments responsible for implementing waste diversion and recycling programs. The SWANA Legislative Task Force (LTF) represents the California Chapters on legislative and regulatory issues.

The SWANA LTF writes to respectfully register our **concerns** with your **SB 47**, which would prohibit schools and local governments from installing playgrounds or fields that use synthetic turf until a required study is completed, unless the school meets certain requirements.

We support the bill's requirement that the state Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment undertake a comprehensive study of the potential adverse health effects of synthetic turf and the use of crumb rubber infill. However, we would note that there are no scientific studies that currently support a ban on the installation of new synthetic turf fields or playgrounds. The use of crumb rubber diverts waste tires from landfills, and the most comprehensive study performed to date, by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, determined that the potential dangers were below their level of concern.

While we appreciate that the amendments taken to the bill mean that it no longer amounts to a complete moratorium on the installation of synthetic turf fields, we are concerned that the requirements that a school or local government would have to fulfill in order to procure one are too stringent.

By requiring that the school or local government consider at least one option that does not use crumb rubber, the bill could completely prevent the installation of a new field or playground if there are no alternatives or a lack of interest by vendors. This requirement could also lead to the installation of a field or playground of unacceptable quality if competitive bidding rules require that they pick a material that is cheaper, but not sufficient to prevent athlete injuries.

For the reasons stated above, the SWANA LTF respectfully registers concerns with SB 47 as it is currently in print, and would be pleased to work to address the issues we have identified.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Schmelzer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jason Schmelzer
SWANA Legislative Advocate