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SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS

FOUNDING

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LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

www.swanacal-leg.org

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES

PAUL J. YODER

YVETTE GOMEZ AGREDANO

Shaw/Yoder, Inc.

1414 K Street, Suite 320

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 446-4656

FAX (916) 446-4318

paul@shawyoder.org

yvette@shawyoder.org

CHAIR

WILL DICKINSON

Placer County

Solid Waste Division

11476 C Avenue

Auburn, CA 95603

(530) 886-4980

wdickins@placer.ca.gov

VICE CHAIR

MIKE MOHAJER

Los Angeles County

IWM Task Force

P.O. Box 3334

San Dimas, CA 91773

(909) 592-1147

mikemohajer@yahoo.com

TREASURER

R. SCOTT JOHNSTON

Merced County Public Works

Solid Waste Division

2222 M Street, Room 206

Merced, CA 95340

(209) 385-7388

lrsj@co.merced.ca.us

SECRETARY

MARK URQUHART P.E.

EMCON/OWT, Inc.

A SHAW Group Company

1326 North Market Boulevard

Sacramento, CA 95834

(530) 626-4771

Mark.Urquhart@shawgrp.com

April 13, 2005

The Honorable Ira Ruskin
Chair, Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety
State Capitol Building, Room 4139
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1125 (Pavley) Household Battery Recycling Act – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Ruskin,

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) is composed of approximately 7000 public and private sector solid waste management professionals throughout North America dedicated to the development and enhancement of environmentally and economically sound practices and policies for the integrated management of municipal solid waste. There are approximately 900 members of SWANA in California, and on their behalf I am writing in support of AB 1125 (Pavley), as introduced February 22, 2005.

AB 1125 would enact the Household Battery Recycling Act of 2006, and define terms for the purposes of this act, including “household battery.” AB 1125 would also require retailers of household batteries to install a system for the collection of used household batteries for reuse, recycling, or proper disposal. This service would be provided at no cost to the consumer of a used household battery.

According to a report cited by the California EPA there were 507,259,000 batteries sold in California in the year 2001. According to survey results published in the report, only 55% of these batteries were recycled. Batteries are a unique product comprised of heavy metals and other elements that make things “portable”. Some of these toxic heavy metals include nickel cadmium, alkaline, mercury, nickel metal hydride and lead acid. It is these elements that can threaten our environment if not properly discarded.

AB 1125 (Pavley) would provide a solution for properly disposing of used batteries. For this reason, the California Chapters of SWANA urge you to support AB 1125 when it is heard before your committee. Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

Yvette Gomez Agredano
Legislative Advocate
SWANA, California Chapters

cc: Members, Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety
The Honorable Greg Aghazarian
Consultants, Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety
Will Dickinson, Chair, SWANA California Chapters Legislative Task Force
Mark Urquhart, Secretary, SWANA California Chapters Legislative Task Force