



SWANA[®]

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

September 9, 2005

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

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RE: AB 1125 (Pavley): Rechargeable Battery Recycling Act – URGE SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

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 to **urge your signature of AB 1125 (Pavley)**.

AB 1125 enacts the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Act of 2006, and requires retailers of rechargeable batteries to establish a system for accepting rechargeable batteries for reuse, recycling, or proper disposal.

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.

This bill will make the recycling of rechargeable batteries much more convenient for citizens. This increased use of recycling will decrease the amount of recyclable batteries that go to landfills, thereby reducing the toxicity of the seepage from California’s landfills. The Department of Toxic Substances Control states that a variety of rechargeable batteries account for 75% of the toxic cadmium found in landfills. This carcinogen is known to pose serious health risks.

AB 1125 (Pavley) would provide a solution for properly disposing of used batteries. For these reasons, the California Chapters of SWANA **urge your signature of AB 1125 (Pavley)**.

Sincerely,

Yvette Gomez Agredano
Legislative Advocate
SWANA, California Chapters

cc: Assemblymember Fran Pavley
Will Dickinson, Chair, SWANA California Chapters Legislative Task Force
Mark Urquhart, Secretary, SWANA California Chapters Legislative Task Force