



SWANA[®]
SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS

FOUNDING

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LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

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March 21, 2014

The Honorable Mark Stone
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5155
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1893 (Stone) – Sharps: Safe Disposal Container
SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblyman Stone,

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) is the world's largest association of solid waste professionals (7700 members). SWANA's California chapters represent more than 900 members. SWANA is committed to advancing the practice of environmentally- and economically-sound management of municipal solid waste. SWANA's California Legislative Task Force (LTF) is responsible for representing the California Chapters on legislative and regulatory issues.

The SWANA LTF is pleased to **SUPPORT** your **AB 1893**, which would dramatically improve workplace safety for the solid waste workers at a number of facilities operated by our membership. Put simply, sharps are a menace in the waste stream and even the most innovative efforts to prevent needle stick injuries have fallen short.

Sharps, including syringes, pen needles, lancets, and other devices, offer great benefit to our society. We have new and innovative medicines, for our pets and ourselves, available for regular use in the home. Unfortunately, sharps use in the home creates new and unique challenges as local governments implement new strategies to recycle, compost, and otherwise divert waste from landfills. Source separation and mechanical sorters have managed to cull great amounts of recoverable material from our waste stream, but recent law changes will require more and more hand-sorting of remaining materials. California shouldn't be asking municipal solid waste workers to hand-sort waste with needles in it.

Sharps have been banned from disposal in California since 2008, but nothing has been done to mitigate the danger faced by California's municipal solid waste workers. AB 2284 simply asks sharps manufacturers to provide a safe-disposal container when they sell a sharp in California. That container will be required to provide information to the customer on where they can safely dispose of the product. This is an incredibly reasonable first step.

For these reasons, the SWANA LTF is pleased to **SUPPORT AB 1893**.

Sincerely,

Jason Schmelzer
SWANA Legislative Advocate

cc. Assemblyman Chesbro – Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee