



SWANA[®]

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS

FOUNDING

SIERRA

GOLDRUSH

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

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March 29, 2006

The Honorable Ira Ruskin

Chair, Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials

1020 N Street, Room 171

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2127 (Plescia) Hazardous waste: alkaline batteries
– SUPPORT IN CONCEPT**

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 to urge you to support AB 2127 (Plescia), regarding alkaline batteries.

This bill would provide for a study to ensure that any fee, deposit, or surcharge imposed on California purchasers of alkaline batteries is based upon a sound public policy premise that actual harm exists.

California does not currently have the infrastructure to deal with the special collection or recycling of alkaline batteries. Furthermore, alkaline batteries are not known to contain harmful materials that pose an environmental risk if placed in landfills. SWANA supports the idea that fees assessed to the purchase of any material deemed hazardous for the purposes of disposal should be based on sound science.

SWANA supports the idea that a study should be conducted before a regulatory or legislative determination that a material is hazardous and therefore banned for disposal and prior to the enactment of an advanced disposal fee. For these reasons, the California Chapters of SWANA support AB 2127 in concept. Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

Yvette Gomez Agredano

Legislative Advocate

SWANA, California Chapters

cc: Members, Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials
The Honorable George Plescia
Consultants, Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials
R. Scott Johnston, Chair, SWANA California Chapters Legislative Task Force
Mark Urquhart, Secretary, SWANA California Chapters Legislative Task Force