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SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS

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LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

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March 29, 2006

The Honorable Loni Hancock
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2271 (Koretz) Household batteries: recycling
- SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT**

Dear Assemblywoman Hancock,

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 2271 (Koretz), regarding recycling of household batteries, with the recommended amendment.

This bill would enact the California Household Battery Recycling Act, define terms, and establish a refund value of 10 cents for every household battery subject to the act. The bill would require a distributor of household batteries to pay the refund value to an unspecified department for every household battery sold or offered for sale, in this state, or imported into this state, by the distributor.

SWANA is supportive of the intent of the author. It is our understanding that the author is leaning towards naming the Department of Conservation (DOC) as the "unspecified department". We, however, would like to recommend that the "unspecified department" be named as the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). This bill is modeled after the California Beverage Container Recycling Fund, which is under the control of the DOC. The CIWMB is most likely to be involved with the collection of universal wastes (u-waste), including batteries. Specifically, the household hazardous waste collection program personnel or even the load checking personnel employed by the CIWMB are working on u-waste matters. These groups are already involved with the CIWMB's role in the California E-Waste program. This recommendation is made in hopes that implementation of and compliance with the Battery Act would be as smooth as possible. Implementation would be further helped if the same forms could be used for submittal for both waste streams (e-waste and batteries) and any future wastes proposed by legislation. In addition, the CIWMB has already struggled through issues related to the u-waste system and has established the relationship with DTSC that regulate the u-waste stream.

AB 2271 with the above recommendation will make the collection of household batteries much easier. For these reasons, the California Chapters of SWANA support AB 2271 with the amendment discussed above. Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

Yvette Gomez Agredano
Legislative Advocate
SWANA, California Chapters

cc: Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Paul Koretz
Consultants, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
R. Scott Johnston, Chair, SWANA California Chapters Legislative Task Force
Mark Urquhart, Secretary, SWANA California Chapters Legislative Task Force