



SWANA[®]

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

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March 27, 2006

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

RE: AB 2878 (Ruskin) Environment: state buildings: sustainable building practices—SUPPORT

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 2878 (Ruskin), regarding sustainable building practices for state buildings.

This bill would enact the "Green" Building Act of 2006 and would require the Secretary for Environmental Protection to adopt regulations, by July 1, 2007, for the incorporation of sustainable building practices into the planning, operations, policymaking, and regulations functions of capitol outlay and building management processes. The bill would require the secretary, in developing the regulations, to broadly consult with private sector individuals and public officials.

An opportunity exists for the state to foster continued economic growth and provide environmental leadership by incorporating sustainable building practices into the state capital outlay and building management processes.

Sustainable building practices utilize energy, water, and materials efficiently throughout the building's life cycle; enhance indoor air quality; improve employees' health, comfort, and productivity; incorporate environmentally preferable products, and thereby substantially reduce the costs and environmental impacts associated with long-term building operations, without compromising building performance or the needs of future generations. The widespread adoption of sustainable building principles would result in significant long-term benefits to California environment, including reductions in smog generation, runoff of water pollutants to surface and groundwater sources, and the demand for energy, water, and sewage treatment services, and the fiscal and environmental impacts resulting from the expansion of these infrastructures.

In furthering it's commitment to providing leadership on energy, environmental, and public health issues by implementing innovative and resource-efficient public building design practices and other state government programs that improve the lives of California's 35 million residents the California Legislature should SUPPORT AB 2878.

For these reasons, the California Chapters of SWANA urge you to support AB 2878 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 Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Ira Ruskin
Consultants, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
R. Scott Johnston, Chair, SWANA California Chapters Legislative Task Force
Mark Urquhart, Secretary, SWANA California Chapters Legislative Task Force