



SWANA[®]

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS

FOUNDING

SIERRA

GOLDRUSH

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

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May 2, 2013

The Honorable Mark Stone
California State Assembly, 29th District
State Capitol, Room 5155
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 403 (Stone) – Safe Sharps Collection Act
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 403**, which would require producers of sharps to develop and implement a plan for the collection and proper disposal of home generated sharps. US households use nearly 4 billion syringes and lancets (sharps) every year. Once the sharps are used, law prohibits disposal in normal trash and recycle bins. However, many users of sharps remain uneducated about the proper disposal and thousands of pounds of sharps enter the municipal waste stream every year.

The disposal of sharps in the waste stream results in significant public health risks and costs to local government. AB 403 tackles this problem head on by ensuring that consumers have a safe, convenient, and cost-effective method to dispose of sharps at the end of their useful life. This legislation will improve safety and reduce costs for local governments at a time when resources are tight and demands are high.

For these reasons, the SWANA LTF is pleased to support your **AB 403**.

Sincerely,

Jason Schmelzer
SWANA Legislative Advocate

Cc: The Honorable Mike Gatto, Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Assembly Appropriations Committee Consultants