



SWANA[®]
SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS

FOUNDING

SIERRA

GOLD RUSH

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

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March 21, 2014

The Honorable Hanna-Beth Jackson
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95864

**RE: SB 1014 (Jackson) – Safe and Convenient Medication Disposal
SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Jackson,

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 **SB 1014**, which would require producers of pharmaceuticals to create, finance, and manage a collection system to safely and conveniently take medications back from California consumers that have few environmentally-friendly options. Drug producers have been efficiently and effectively operating a substantially similar program in Canada for 15 years.

While there are many reasons to support SB 1014, the SWANA LTF is mostly concerned with the potential environmental impact of the current methods of disposal – primarily landfilling and/or flushing medications into municipal wastewater systems. There is no doubt that the collection system anticipated by SB 1014 provides for an environmentally superior outcome than the current free-for-all approach to medication disposal.

SB 1014 calls on drug producers to take responsibility and manage a portion of the impacts resulting from disposal of their products at the end of life. This bill does not "shift costs" away from local governments to producers. That presupposes that local governments have an inherent responsibility to manage the end-of-life impacts of every product, *no matter how burdensome*. SB 1014 doesn't ask drug producers to pay full freight – instead it asks them to build a system (similar to the distribution system that already puts their products on store shelves) to take back a portion of the medications that expire or aren't taken for other reasons. SB 1014 asks them to contribute to solving problems associated with addiction and environmental contamination resulting from careless disposal.

SWANA supports Product Stewardship for products that have problematic end-of-life impacts, whether fiscal or environmental. Medications, despite all of their indisputable societal benefits, also come with costs. There can be no doubt that the costs in

California – whether related to drug addiction or potential environmental degradation – need to be addressed. California needs to move past the time where our best attempt at managing the end-of-life impacts of medications is stockpiling, flushing, and throwing it away with kitty litter.

For these reasons, the SWANA Legislative Task force is pleased to **SUPPORT SB 1014**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Schmelzer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jason Schmelzer
SWANA Legislative Advocate

cc. Senator Jerry Hill – Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Senator Ted Lieu – Chair, Senate Business and Professions and Economic Development Committee