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California Resource Recovery Association

April 7, 2009

Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair
Committee Members
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
1020 N Street, Legislative Office Building, Office 164
Sacramento, CA 95814
Submitted via fax: 916-319-2192

Re: AB 283 (Chesbro), California Product Stewardship Act – Strong Support

Dear Chair Skinner and Committee Members:

CRRA strongly supports AB 283, which would create an extended producer responsibility system in California. CRRA is a partner with the California Product Stewardship Council in working towards shifting California's product waste management system from one focused solely on government-funded and ratepayer-financed waste diversion activities, to a producer responsibility system that drives life-cycle environmental improvements in product design.

In 1989 the Legislature adopted AB 939 which established the "Three Rs" hierarchy: source **R**eduction, **R**euse, then **R**ecycling and composting. Since then California communities have achieved a collective diversion rate of over 50%, yet waste generation continues to grow. Municipal recycling programs have made and will continue to make a great contribution to reducing California's waste and returning valuable resources to the economy. Yet today seventy-five percent of landfill waste in the United States consists of manufactured products that are increasingly complex, are not designed or suitable for reuse, and are expensive to recycle if they are at all recyclable.

It is clear that the state's reliance on municipal recycling programs alone falls short of fulfilling the promise of true resource conservation aspired to by AB939.

As the state's largest recycling association, CRRA and our members have been the primary actors in the achievement of California's waste diversion results since 1989. We are therefore well-qualified to endorse the producer responsibility approach in general and AB283 specifically.

Please support AB283.

Sincerely,

J. Muir

Julie Muir
President, CRRA

Cc: Honorable Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Fax: 916-558-3160
Assembly Member Wesley Chesbro, Fax: 916-319-2101

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