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# California Resource Recovery Association

April 6, 2011

Honorable Christine Kehoe, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Fax: (916) 327-2188

## RE: SB 515 (Corbett) Battery Stewardship Act - Support

Dear Senator Kehoe:

The California Resource Recovery Association, founded in 1974, is California's statewide recycling association. It is the oldest and one of the largest non-profit recycling organizations in the United States. CRRA is dedicated to achieving environmental sustainability in and beyond California through Zero Waste strategies including product stewardship, waste prevention, reuse, recycling and composting. CRRA advances local, regional and state wide waste reduction efforts which result in critical environmental and climate protection outcomes. CRRA's more than 500 members represent all aspects of California's reduce-reuse-recycle-compost economy. Our members work for over 100 cities, counties and municipal districts, as well as hauling companies, material processors, non-profit organizations, state agencies, and allied professionals.

CRRA urges you to support SB 515, a measure that would establish a product stewardship system for household batteries, which were banned from California landfills in 2006. Despite the landfill disposal ban there is no statewide system to fund convenient recycling opportunities of non-rechargeable batteries for California consumers. SB 515 would establish a much needed consistent, statewide material management system for single-use batteries, and fulfill the intent of the landfill disposal ban.

It is estimated that only one-half of one percent of the more than 500 million batteries are sold each year in California are recycled through local government household hazardous waste programs. And although non-rechargeable batteries account for 80 percent of batteries sold in California, current law, AB 1125 (Pavley, 2006), requires retailers to take back only rechargeable batteries.

The product stewardship system that SB 515 would establish would require battery manufacturers to design, fund and operate a program to properly manage the batteries they sell in California. In addition to capturing far more batteries for recycling, such a system would manage batteries at a far lower cost per unit than the cost born by local household hazardous waste programs. It would also be an incentive for manufacturers to design safer products that have less environmental impacts, as well as provide consumers with free, convenient recycling opportunities for household batteries statewide.

CRRA strongly urges you to support SB 515 when it is heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Sincerely,

*Julie Muir*

Julie Muir  
President

Cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee:

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