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June 24, 2016

Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Public Health Officer
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RE: AB 45 (Mullin): Household Hazardous Waste- Oppose

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) Executive Committee voted on June 22, 2016 to urgently take an Oppose recommendation on AB 45 (Mullin), a bill that would require the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to adopt one or more model ordinances for a comprehensive program for the collection of household hazardous waste, and allows a local jurisdiction to adopt one of the model ordinances.

CCLHO recommends a position of Oppose on AB 45 as it would create a mandate on local governments to divert additional household hazardous waste products (household batteries, home-generated sharps and pharmaceuticals) from disposal in landfills with no share of responsibility by product manufacturers. AB 45 would thereby undermine efforts at the state and local level to mandate producer responsibility, including ordinances on sharps, pharmaceuticals, and other products that local and state jurisdictions have already passed. These producer responsibility ordinances not only assist with the collection of dangerous products but also have been shown to result in source reduction.

As you are aware, CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now the California Department of Public Health), other departments, boards, and commissions, as well as officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

This position of Oppose on AB 45 is consistent with CCLHO's strategic priorities to address legislation that weakens or changes the role of the local health department and to provide advice and scientific expertise on public health matters.

If you have any questions, please contact me at jberreman@ci.berkeley.ca.us or at 510-981-5301. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Dr. Janet Berreman

Janet Berreman, MD, MPH
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers

cc: Scott Smithline, Director, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery