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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

April 8, 2013

Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, California 95814

Fax: (916) 319-2192

Re: AB 488 (Williams) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Chesbro,

The County of Santa Barbara strongly supports AB 488 (Williams), which will require producers of household batteries, as defined, to create, finance, and manage an extended producer responsibility (EPR) system for California consumers to safely and conveniently recycle used and expired primary batteries.

In 2006 California banned household batteries from the trash due to their toxic and corrosive chemicals. As a result of this "ban without a plan," local governments must finance battery recycling programs using public taxpayer and utility ratepayer funds to safely manage batteries.

AB 488 will provide a level playing field for battery producers to design and operate the EPR program at substantial cost savings to local government agencies while making recycling more convenient for the public. Last year, battery recycling costs exceeded \$17,000 for Santa Barbara County's household hazardous waste (HHW) collection program alone. When considering all of California's HHW programs collectively, battery recycling is a huge expense for public agencies.

We strongly believe that AB 488 is the right solution to this pressing problem because it creates a privately managed and financed system to allow consumers to properly and conveniently recycle their spent primary batteries, with the appropriate oversight and enforcement by CalRecycle.

AB 488 also outlines requirements for consistent and effective public outreach, proper financing, and clear recycling performance goals tied to specific dates. A robust battery collection system will also allow producers to recover scarce and valuable materials that

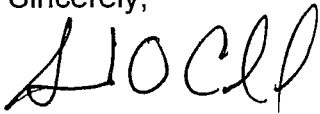
Re: AB 488 (Williams) – SUPPORT
April 8, 2013

Page 2

would otherwise be lost to landfills. For these reasons, the County of Santa Barbara strongly supports AB 488.

If you have any questions about our position, please contact Leslie Robinson with our Public Works Department at (805) 882-3615 or lrobins@cosbpw.net.

Sincerely,



Salud Carbajal,
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Das Williams
The Honorable Katcho Achadjian
Monica Miller, Legislative Advocate
Cliff Berg, Legislative Advocate
Members of the Board of Supervisors

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