



# CPSC

## California Product Stewardship Council<sup>sm</sup>

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### HEARING TAKES ON PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR HAZARDOUS PRODUCT RECYCLING PROGRAMS

**WHAT:** Assemblyman Rich Gordon (D- Menlo Park,) Chair of the Assembly's Select Committee on Waste Reduction and Recycling in 21st Century California, to hold a hearing to discuss producer responsibilities regarding the proper disposal of household hazardous products such as batteries, sharps/needles and unused medications. Assemblymember Gordon has authored AB 1159, which addresses the household batteries and needles and supports a private sector smaller government, approach to making recycling more convenient.

**WHY:** Today, thanks to AB 1343, which was passed in 2010 by then Assemblymember, now Congressman, Jared Huffman, Californians have a producer run paint program that allows the public to more conveniently return paint for recycling at paint stores. This successful program has led to an increase in recycling as well as saving the government money. A representative of the PaintCare program will presenting at the hearing with representatives from Call2Recycle, a national rechargeable battery recycling program funded and operated by manufacturers.

However, similar take back programs for pharmaceuticals, alkaline batteries and sharps needles have repeatedly failed at the state level. In response, counties have taken steps to make producers take responsibility by passing their own take back ordinances for the disposal of unused medications. Alameda County was the first in the nation to do so. While this type of program is no different than programs drug producers help fund and operate [in countries all over the world](#) including [Canada](#), [Mexico](#), [Portugal](#), [Brazil](#) and even [Colombia](#), they continue to fight proposed ordinances tooth and nail including taking the Alameda ordinance to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The U.S. Supreme Court denied PhRMA's request to hear their case in May and even before the decision, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara passed ordinances and Marin adopted it in August. All ordinances passed

unanimously. Other counties are now contemplating ordinances to deal with both unused medicines and needles including Los Angeles and Santa Cruz. Legislative committees are not often held in the bay area so it is a rare opportunity for the public to be heard without having to drive to Sacramento and we encourage the public and local public officials to attend and participate in this discussion.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, November 4, 2015  
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Palo Alto City Hall  
Council Chambers  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

**WHO:** Assemblyman Rich Gordon  
Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director, California Product Stewardship Council  
Debbie Raphael, Director, San Francisco Dept. of the Environment  
Waymond Wong, Hazardous Materials Supervisor, San Mateo County  
Carl Smith, CEO of Call2Recycle  
Jeremy Jones, West Coast Program Manager, PaintCare  
Marissa Watkins, Director of State Advocacy, PhRMA  
Michael Gross, Director of Sustainability, Green Waste/Zanker Recycling  
Rich Thompson, Senior Director of Republic Services  
Local Waste Haulers