

June 2, 2016

The Honorable Senators Hannah-Beth Jackson and Jeff Stone
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

SB 1229 (Jackson-Stone) – Secure Drug Take-Back Bins – SUPPORT

Dear Senators Jackson and Stone:

The Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group (BAPPG) is pleased to support SB 1229, as amended April 19, 2016. Our members, which include 43 wastewater treatment plants serving millions of Bay Area residents, are charged with safeguarding our receiving waters and have long embraced pollution prevention as the best measure for wastewater quality control for non-conventional pollutants. Regionally, BAPPG has an aggressive pollution prevention program that targets, among other things, chemical constituents of emerging concern such as pharmaceuticals and personal care products. We recently funded outreach to hospice and dental assistant staff to promote the message that medicines should not be flushed, and instead disposed via pharmaceutical take-back programs.

SB 1229 furthers BAPPG's mission by affording liability protection to pharmacies and pharmacists who provide safe and convenient disposal bins to the Public. Pharmacists who host medication disposal receptacles should receive protection if they follow the rules:

- 1) U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency now has clear rules on hosting medicine bins. This bill will allow pharmacists and pharmacy chain stores to provide appropriate disposal containers for public use.;
- 2) Providing safe medication disposal was listed as one of four key pillars of the national prescription drug abuse policy recommendations from 2014; and,
- 3) Pollution prevention is much more cost effective than treating flushed pharmaceuticals. Preventing flushing of medications down toilets is key.

Should you have any questions about our position, or wish to discuss your legislation, please feel free to contact Robert Wilson, BAPPG Chair, at (707) 776-3654.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Wilson
BAPPG Chair

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