



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 11, 2015

The Honorable Jimmy Gomez, Chair
Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Assembly Bill 1159 (Gordon) – Product stewardship: pilot program: household batteries and home-generated sharps waste

Dear Chairman Gomez:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I am pleased to support Assembly Bill 1159 (Gordon). This bill mitigates waste and pollution of household batteries and home-generated sharps by establishing a product stewardship pilot program.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) require special disposal at the end of the product's life, specifically household batteries and home-generated sharps. As part of our responsible solid waste management program, Long Beach invests in educating our residents on the harmful effects of improper HHW disposal and assists with proper identification of HHW. Long Beach provides access to safe collection, recycling, treatment, and disposal of HHW in efforts to divert those products from the municipal waste stream. These products are expensive to manage and pose a significant occupational safety and health hazard for municipal solid waste employees.

Though Long Beach provides free programs and publicly advertise to reach a wide range of audiences, HHW is often discarded illegally accumulating in the waste stream. AB 1159 sensible requires producers of household batteries and home-generated sharps to contribute to the efforts of local governments by creating and managing a customized collection system that allows for the disposal of their products. The stewardship pilot program is a safe and convenient approach for consumers, while alleviating economic, public health, and environmental burdens to local governments.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 1159.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Isadore Hall, III, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, State Assembly, 63rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District

