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Environmental Advocates Urge the CA Senate Environmental Quality Committee to Pass Carpet Recycling Legislation

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA -- On Wednesday, July 3rd, the California Senate Environmental Quality Committee will review [AB729](#) (Chu), legislation that will require California's existing carpet stewardship and recycling organization, CARE, to include a contingency plan if the existing stewardship organization's authority to run the program is revoked.

The bill would require a trust fund to be set up with all unexpended funds and ongoing consumer assessments to prevent disruption of subsidy payments to California businesses. The legislation would also repeal certain provisions relating to the carpet stewardship assessment and replace the assessment with a differential assessment to take into account the burden that a particular carpet material has on the stewardship program - essentially creating a level playing field for carpet products that had less environmental and cost burdens at end-of-life recycling.

Ahead of the committee meeting, **Suzanne Schenk, campaign advisor for the Changing Markets Foundation**, a nonprofit organization working to drive change towards a more sustainable economy by leveraging market forces, explained:

"This bill is an opportunity for California to lead the way further on carpet reuse and recycling as part of the new circular economy. That's why the inclusion of differential, or modulated fees, in this legislation, is critical to making sure better, more environmentally friendly carpets that are easier to recycle are treated fairly and incentivized."

As the sponsor of AB 729 (Chu), the [National Stewardship Action Council](#) (NSAC) is a network of committed proponents comprised of governments, non-government organizations, businesses, and consumers who advocate that producers fairly share responsibility in a circular economy. **Heidi Sanborn, executive director of NSAC** states:

"The purpose of AB 729 is simple yet important - to ensure California feepayer money is transferred back and used to support California's carpet recycling infrastructure if the existing stewardship organization authority is revoked. The public has the right to know how their fee money is being used to design and run a carpet recycling program. NSAC strongly supports AB 729 and will continue to work towards a fair sharing of responsibility for government and private sectors to achieve a circular economy."

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