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## **Enviro Advocates Urge CA Senate to Pass AB 729 to Protect Carpet Recycling Program**

**SACRAMENTO** – Today, the California Senate Appropriations Committee passed [AB 729](#) (Chu), which paves the way for the state to reclaim over \$15 million in consumer carpet fees for carpet recycling and continue to support the local businesses protecting its recycling infrastructure.

In September, Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) must submit a new carpet recycling plan that meets the environmental benchmarks set in the current carpet law ([AB 1158](#)). After failing to meet recycling goals since 2013 and CalRecycle fining them \$1.7 million in August. If CARE fails to achieve those goals again, CARE will be revoked as the program operator, leaving the State of California **without recourse to recover the \$15+ million in feepayer money currently in CARE's possession.**

After passing the Senate Appropriations Committee on Friday, AB 729 must be voted on by September 13 on the Senate Floor. Environmental, recycling, and carpet sustainability advocates urge the California Senate to take up a swift vote on AB 729, sharing the following:

**Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director of the National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC) and sponsor of AB 729 said:** “For the past eight years, CARE has been a bad actor as the state’s carpet stewards, collecting fee money paid by California consumers, while failing to meet legislated requirements. If CARE is revoked as program operator, the passage of AB 729 is vital to guaranteeing that feepayer money is transferred back to CA and continues to support California’s carpet recycling infrastructure.”

“NSAC will continue to ensure that the government and private sectors fairly share responsibility in achieving a circular economy. It is urgent for legislators to pass this bill and protect recycling infrastructure in California, especially with the lack of markets for post-consumer plastic.”

**Mike Tinney, a recycling markets consultant said:** “California-based recyclers and manufacturers using post-consumer carpet rely on consumer-generated financial incentives provided under the state’s carpet stewardship program. They cannot risk the unnecessary disruption to their payments that could occur if the collected funds are held up during a transition of the stewardship organization. AB 729 eliminates the risk of incentives stopping while ensuring costs required to recycle various carpet types are visible to the consumer.”

**Eric Nelson, Vice-President of Interface carpet said:** “Interface supports AB729 because it safeguards recycling program fees in the event of a stewardship organization change, ensuring program stability and ease in carpet recycling. A sustainably funded program means less waste in our landfills and ensures a more circular economy in California.”

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