

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Jesse Arreguin  
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 6710  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SUPPORT: SB 936 (Blakespear and Umberg) Nitrous Oxide Sales Ban (as introduced January 29, 2026)**

Dear Senator Arreguin,

We, the undersigned, write to express our **strong support for SB 936**, Co-sponsored by the National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), County of Orange, and San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan, which will ban sales of nitrous oxide which is widely used as an illicit recreational inhalant having devastating effects on users and the public causing permanent health problems and even death.

While the public health and safety impacts are extraordinary, the large nitrous oxide cylinders are showing up in publicly funded hazardous waste facilities and have quickly become an expensive waste management problem and expose waste management workers as compressed gas cylinders can explode when compacted.

Local governments are responsible for the collection, processing, recycling and disposal of solid waste, including the operation of local household hazardous waste (HHW) collection programs. Local governments often contract with solid waste enterprises to provide hazardous waste collection services. These programs typically offer residents free drop-off of HHW; however, the cost to manage some of the waste streams is significant, such as these cylinders costing between \$70-\$120 each to properly puncture, evacuate, crush, ship and manage, and puts serious financial pressure on local governments that operate them. While some consumers properly dispose of nitrous oxide cylinders at the local HHW collection facility, others are found littered in the streets or placed in recycling carts because residents believe their metal content makes them recyclable or disposed of in the trash which is illegal. These must be diverted to the local HHW facilities and managed as HHW. The cost for local governments to manage nitrous oxide cylinders exceeds the initial purchase price that consumers pay at the point of sale as they can be purchased for \$40-\$70 each but typically cost local agencies almost double that to manage.

Local governments and the solid waste industry have no control over what products are introduced into the marketplace and for which we will ultimately be responsible for management and disposal. By banning the sale of large nitrous oxide containers, SB 936 will significantly reduce cost pressures and management challenges for local solid waste programs and their operators while protecting public health.

There are too many stories of how people are addicted to inhaling laughing gas and it is resulting in permanent health impacts and death. Abuse of N<sub>2</sub>O is destroying families, adding to litter

problems, and in general is making life worse for Californians from public health and safety impacts to increasing costs and blight.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support your SB 936. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director  
National Stewardship Action Council