



September 1, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 936 (Blakespear and Umberg) Nitrous Oxide Sales – Request for Signature

Dear Honorable Governor Newsom,

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 in a container that is more than 8 grams or which is marketed or has the taste or smell of any food, which is widely used as an illicit recreational inhalant having devastating effects on users and public safety causing permanent health problems and even death for the users.

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 additionally expose waste management workers to the danger of explosion 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 containers is significant, as these cylinders cost 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. 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 managing. 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 increase the safety for their operators while also protecting public health.

There are too many stories of how people are addicted to inhaling "laughing gas", which is no laughing matter, and it is resulting in permanent health impacts and death to users and to others who are dying because of drivers passing out at the wheel of vehicles. Abuse of N2O is destroying families, adding to litter problems, and in general is making life worse for Californians from public health and safety impacts to endangering sanitation workers and increasing costs and blight.

For these reasons, we request your signature on SB 936 to make California a safer and more affordable place to live.

Sincerely,



Heidi Sanborn, CEO
National Stewardship Action Council



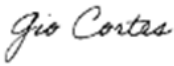
Leslie Lukacs, Executive Director
Zero Waste Sonoma



Suzanne Hume, Educational Director
& Founder
CleanEarth4Kids.org



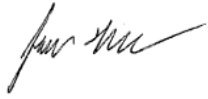
Catherine Dodd, Health Advisor
FACTS Families Advocating for
Chemical and Toxics Safety



Gio Cortes, Recycling Programs
Specialist
City of Escondido



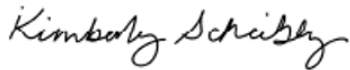
Marketa Houskova, DNP, RN, CEO
American Nurses Association,
California



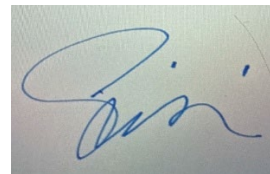
James Moore, Director
Merced County Regional Waste
Management Authority



David Button, President
South San Francisco Scavenger Co.,
Inc



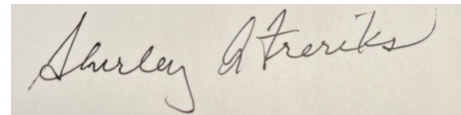
Kimberly Scheibly, Executive Director
Zero Waste Marin



Sasha Del Giorgio, Management
Analyst
San Luis Obispo County Integrated
Waste Management Authority



Jackie Nuñez, Founder
The Last Plastic Straw



Shirley Freriks, WasteNOT Lead
Nevada County Climate Action Now



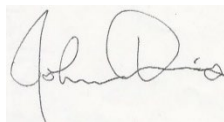
Bryan Mekechuk, Chair
Santa Clara County Recycling and
Waste Reduction Commission



Tony Hackett, Policy Associate
Californians Against Waste



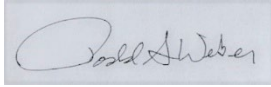
Felipe Melchor, General Manager
ReGen Monterey



John Davis, Administrator
Mojave Desert and Mountain
Recycling Authority



Kent Holm, Environmental Services
Director
Douglas County, Nebraska



Todd Weber, Volunteer, Chapter Co-Leader
Elders Climate Action (ECA) Northern California (NorCal) Chapter



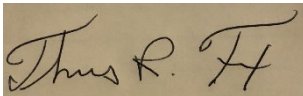
Mayor Lisa M. Gillmor
City of Santa Clara



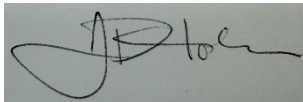
Richard Burke, Founder, Chapter Leader
Elders Climate Action (ECA) Southern California (SoCal) Chapter



Barbara Bella, Co-chair
Neighborhood Enhancement
Russian Hill Neighbors



Thomas Fox, Senior Legislative Counsel
Center for Environmental Health



Jeff Holden, Founder & Host
The NonProfit Podcast Network



Tracie Onstad Bills, Executive Director
California Resource Recovery Association (CRRA)