



April 6, 2026

The Honorable Aisha Wahab  
Chair, Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 3320  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SUPPORT: SB 936 (Blakespear and Umberg) Nitrous Oxide Sales**

Dear Senator Wahab,

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 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 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 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.

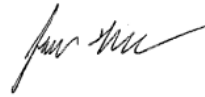
There are too many stories of how people are addicted to inhaling laughing gas and it is resulting in permanent health impacts and death to them and to other are dying because of drivers passing out at the wheel. Abuse of N2O is destroying families, adding to litter problems, and in general is making life worse for Californians from public health and safety impacts to 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



James Moore, Director  
Merced County Regional Waste  
Management Authority



Leslie Lukacs, Executive Director  
Zero Waste Sonoma



Kimberly Scheibly, Executive Director  
Zero Waste Marin



Suzanne Hume, Educational Director &  
Founder  
CleanEarth4Kids.org



Jackie Nuñez, Founder  
The Last Plastic Straw



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



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



Gio Cortes, Recycling Programs Specialist  
City of Escondido

Felipe Melchor, General Manager  
ReGen Monterey

Kent Holm, Environmental Services  
Director  
Douglas County, Nebraska

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

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

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

Shirley Freriks, WasteNOT Lead  
Nevada County Climate Action Now