



August 11, 2026

The Honorable Buffy Wicks, Chair
Assembly Committee on Appropriations
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Chair Wicks,

We, the undersigned, write to express our **strong support for SB 936 as amended July 2nd, 2026**, 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 are pleased to support your SB 936. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Heidi Sanborn, CEO
National Stewardship Action Council



Gio Cortes, Recycling Programs Specialist
City of Escondido



Leslie Lukacs, Executive Director
Zero Waste Sonoma



James Moore, Director
Merced County Regional Waste
Management Authority



Suzanne Hume, Educational Director &
Founder
CleanEarth4Kids.org



Kimberly Scheibly, Executive Director
Zero Waste Marin



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



Jackie Nuñez, Founder
The Last Plastic Straw



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



Felipe Melchor, General Manager
ReGen Monterey



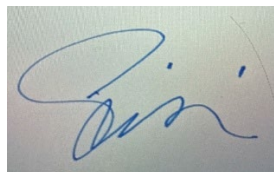
Kent Holm, Environmental Services
Director
Douglas County, Nebraska



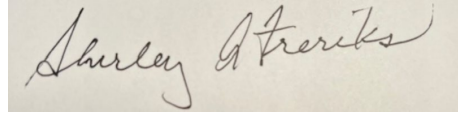
Marketa Houskova, DNP, RN, CEO
American Nurses Association, California



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



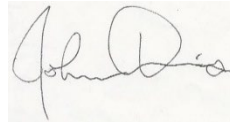
Sasha Del Giorgio, Management Analyst
San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste
Management Authority



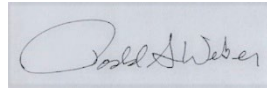
Shirley Freriks, WasteNOT Lead
Nevada County Climate Action Now



Tony Hackett, Policy Associate
Californians Against Waste



John Davis, Administrator
Mojave Desert and Mountain Recycling
Authority



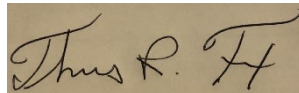
Todd Weber, Volunteer, Chapter Co-Leader
Elders Climate Action (ECA) Northern
California (NorCal) Chapter



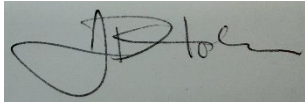
Richard Burke, Founder, Chapter Leader
Elders Climate Action (ECA) Southern
California (SoCal) Chapter



Barbara Bella, Co-chair Neighborhood
Enhancement
Russian Hill Neighbors



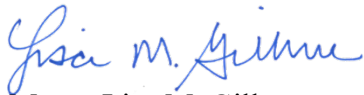
Thomas Fox, Senior Legislative Counsel
Center for Environmental Health



Jeff Holden, Founder & Host
The NonProfit Podcast Network



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



Mayor Lisa M. Gillmor
City of Santa Clara