August 29, 2018

The Honorable Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez-Fletcher
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 212 (Jackson) Solid Waste: Pharmaceutical and Sharps Waste Stewardship – SUPPORT as amended on August 27th

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez-Fletcher:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in order to respectfully request your support for SB 212 (Jackson), as amended on August 27th, which would establish producer-funded take-back programs to provide safe and convenient disposal options for unused pharmaceuticals and home-generated medical sharps waste.

SB 212 (Jackson) will help to keep unused drugs out of people’s homes, decreasing the likelihood of abuse or accidental poisonings and would create a workable solution to protect against needle stick injuries for parks, hotel, solid waste, wastewater, sanitation and other workers as well as the general public.

Prescription and over the counter drugs that are left over from treatment or have expired are an increasing problem. Medications are ending up in water systems, impacting the environment and the County’s water supply. SB 212 would take a groundbreaking step to ensure that California residents throughout the state have access to safe, convenient disposal methods of sharps and drugs, addressing important public health concerns.

The County Board of Supervisors adopted a 2018 Legislative Platform that directly supports and encourages actions to reduce pollution and protect the environment. For these reasons, the County is in support of SB 212 (Jackson). If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Legislative Advocate
Governmental Advocates Inc.
CC: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Author
Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
Jennifer Galehouse, Deputy Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
John Kennedy, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors