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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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September 16, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

**REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE – ASSEMBLY BILL 707 (ENROLLED ON
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021) – MERCURY THERMOSTAT COLLECTION ACT OF 2021**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) respectfully requests your signature on Assembly Bill 707 (AB 707), as enrolled on September 13, 2021. AB 707, if enacted, would recast the mercury Thermostat Collect Act of 2008 (Act) and establishes it as the 2021 Act which requires each manufacturer of mercury-added thermostats, or group of manufacturers, on or before March 1, 2022, to contract with or retain a qualified third party (as defined) to develop and implement a convenient, cost-effective, and efficient program for the collection, transportation, recycling, and disposal of out-of-service mercury-added thermostats and to develop an educational and outreach campaign to inform appropriate entities about the importance of safe recycling and disposal of mercury added thermostats.

In addition, the qualified third party would be required to provide incentives of no less than \$30 for each out-of-service mercury added thermostat collected and submit a written plan for the program to the Department of Toxic Substances Control for review and approval. This bill would also require each manufacturer, or group of manufacturers, on or before March 30, 2022, and on or before March 30 of each year thereafter, to pay an aggregate total of \$400,000, for regulatory costs to administer, implement, and enforce the Act until the Act sunsets on January 1, 2029.

The Task Force is in support of such a measure because the bill would further require manufacturers of mercury thermostats to cover the cost for collection and management so that they are not mismanaged, and the risk of mercury contamination is reduced.

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Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939), the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of Los Angeles and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of ten million. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective and environmentally sound solid waste management system in Los Angeles County, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the system on a countywide basis. The Task Force membership includes representatives of the League of California Cities-Los Angeles County Division, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, City of Los Angeles, waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** AB 707 and respectfully requests your signature on this legislation. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and
Council Member, City of Rosemead

PG:cd:cso

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cc: Assembly Member Quirk
Joey Freeman, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Fesia A. Davenport, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments
Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles
Each City Recycling Coordinator in the County of Los Angeles
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force