



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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March 26, 2024

The Honorable Senator Ben Allen, Chair
1021 O Street, Suite 3230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1160 (Blakespear): Marine Flare Producer Responsibility Act – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Allen,

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors writes to express our support for SB 1066, which presents a crucial opportunity to address the pressing issue of managing expired or unwanted marine flares. As a regulatory body responsible for overseeing solid waste management within our jurisdiction, we understand the significant challenges posed by hazardous waste disposal and recognize the urgent need for legislative action to alleviate this burden on local governments and taxpayers.

SB 1066's proposal to require producers of marine flares to establish a convenient collection system for their proper disposal is a welcomed initiative. By shifting the financial responsibility from our cities and counties to the producers and users, this legislation not only promotes fiscal sustainability but also ensures equitable waste management practices. As a local government agency, we are acutely aware of the strain placed on our resources and infrastructure when tasked with managing hazardous materials such as marine flares. The exorbitant costs associated with their disposal not only deplete our limited budget but also divert vital funds away from essential services and community initiatives.

Furthermore, the environmental implications of improper marine flare disposal cannot be overstated. These toxic and reactive substances pose a significant risk to our delicate ecosystems and waterways, threatening the health and well-being of both wildlife and residents alike. By establishing a statewide collection program, SB 1066 not only addresses the immediate waste management challenges but also safeguards our natural environment for future generations.

As a member of the California Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling, we wholeheartedly endorse the recommendation to establish Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs for projectile or explosive marine flares. Our collective expertise and experience underscore the necessity of such measures in reducing fire and operational hazards while promoting sustainable waste management practices statewide.

In conclusion, Humboldt County Government strongly supports SB 1066 and urges your Aye vote when it is heard in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee. This legislation represents a vital step towards achieving our shared goals of environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and public safety. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we stand ready to assist in any way necessary to ensure its successful passage.

Sincerely,

Rex Bohn
Chair, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

CC: Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Senator Mike McGuire
Assemblymember Jim Wood
California State Association of Counties
Rural County Representatives of California
Shaw / Yoder / Antwih / Schmelzer / Lange