



Northwest Product Stewardship Council

September 12, 2007

Dear Cheryl Peace:

We are writing on behalf of the Northwest Product Stewardship Council (NWPSC) to express our support for the Board's consideration of a framework approach to product stewardship.

The Northwest Product Stewardship Council is a group of government organizations that has worked with businesses and nonprofit groups since 1998 to integrate product stewardship principles into the policy and economic structures of the Pacific Northwest.

We believe that the framework approach to product stewardship recommended by your staff is much preferred to a "product by product" approach. It is a concept that we in the Northwest are also looking at. We concur with the key elements included in the proposal you are considering: setting goals and principles to guide the development of programs; establishing priorities among products to focus on; and establishing clear expectations about the roles and responsibilities for stakeholders within individual product stewardship programs.

We also strongly support the proposed framework's "cradle to cradle" and performance driven perspectives. We agree that product stewardship should be about reducing the impacts across the lifecycle of a product – as well as providing a program to recycle products at their end-of-life. We also concur that government should focus on performance and allow industry the flexibility to exercise its expertise and creativity in forming programs.

Your staff has done an excellent job of providing background materials and a roadmap of the policy issues that should be addressed. The California Product Stewardship Council, with whom the NWPSC has been sharing ideas, has also provided you with valuable guidance on developing a framework. As we in the Pacific Northwest examine these issues, we will be looking to learn from your deliberations.

Please let us know if we can be of any assistance as you consider these matters.

Sincerely,

Bill Smith
Scott Klag
Northwest Product Stewardship Council Chairs