



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

September 25, 2019

**RE: AB 142 (C. Garcia) Lead-acid batteries- Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom,

We are writing in support of **AB 142 (C. Garcia)**, a bill to increase the manufacturer fees on lead acid batteries. The monies raised from the bill would go to investigate and clean up contaminated soils at former lead smelters across California.

We supported the original bill, passed two years ago and signed by Governor Brown. However, at that time we had asked for the fee to be higher so it could generate enough money to investigate and cleanup these contaminated sites throughout California within the next decade. California is home to over 20 suspected sites where extensive lead contamination could be affecting public health. Ten of those sites are in San Francisco and six of those sites are in Los Angeles. Most of these sites have yet to be investigated nor cleaned up. Most of these sites are located in highly populated areas with schools and neighborhoods nearby where children can easily come in contact with these lead-contaminated soils.

This issue of sites contaminated with lead has been a long-standing environmental justice issue in the state and efforts to address it have been sorely lacking. It is long past time for California to protect its children from lead exposure and this bill is one of many steps that need to be taken. We applaud the efforts by Assembly Member Garcia and the Legislature to confront this pernicious public health threat to California's children and make the manufacturers pay. For the reasons listed above and more, we are pleased to **SUPPORT AB 142 (C. Garcia)** and respectfully request that you **SIGN** this bill.

Sincerely,

Respectfully,

Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director  
National Stewardship Action Council

Doug Kobold, Executive Director  
California Product Stewardship Council