



June 30, 2009

Dear Brake Pad Partnership Stakeholder:

This letter is to inform you of the most recent developments in the efforts of Sustainable Conservation and the Brake Pad Partnership to enact SB 346 (Kehoe), which addresses the problem of copper pollution in urban watersheds at its source by requiring that brake friction materials contain no more than 5% copper by weight by 2021 and no more than 0.5% copper by 2032.

In response to the unprecedented fiscal crisis in Sacramento, Sustainable Conservation, the Brake Pad Partnership, and Senator Christine Kehoe have determined that SB 346 should be held temporarily in the Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials, with the goal of taking the bill up again in the 2010 legislative session. Of particular concern have been the proposals to realign or reorganize the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the agency that will play the central role in the implementation and enforcement of SB 346. These budget-related proposals, and the larger uncertainty created by the fiscal crisis, have made it difficult to work out essential program details in the limited time before this year's policy committee deadlines. Making SB 346 a two-year bill will allow the Partnership to use the interim period before the 2010 session begins to engage in fruitful discussions with DTSC about the specifics of the copper reduction program's implementation and enforcement.

Sustainable Conservation and the Partnership have made significant progress by successfully getting SB 346 introduced, gathering an impressive array of support, and moving the bill out of the State Senate. We plan to use the intervening months to further clarify and strengthen the bill, inform and educate legislators and staff on the complexity of the issue and the innovative ways the Partnership has dealt with those complexities, and engage the individuals and organizations that have expressed concerns about the bill in serious discussions in order to resolve those concerns. The delay in passing SB 346 is unfortunate, given the need for quick and decisive action to address copper in urban watersheds, but the Partnership is resolved to remain united in its pursuit of enacting the bill. The need for it is too great and the consequences of not enacting it are too serious. Thank you for your continuing support of the Partnership and SB 346 – it is the foundation upon which our past and future success rests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashley Boren".

Ashley Boren
Executive Director