

February 25, 2011

Contact: Jeff Barbosa
916-319-2723

Assemblymember Wieckowski to co-chair hearing on state's growing electronic-waste stream

**Oversight hearing will explore how state departments, recyclers
manage the hazardous elements of E-waste**

Sacramento – Assemblymember Bob Wieckowski (D-Fremont) will co-chair a joint oversight hearing Monday to investigate how the state, recyclers and manufacturers are managing the collection and recycling of electronic waste such as computer monitors, laptops, televisions and other unwanted electronic products that are becoming an increasing part of our nation's waste stream.

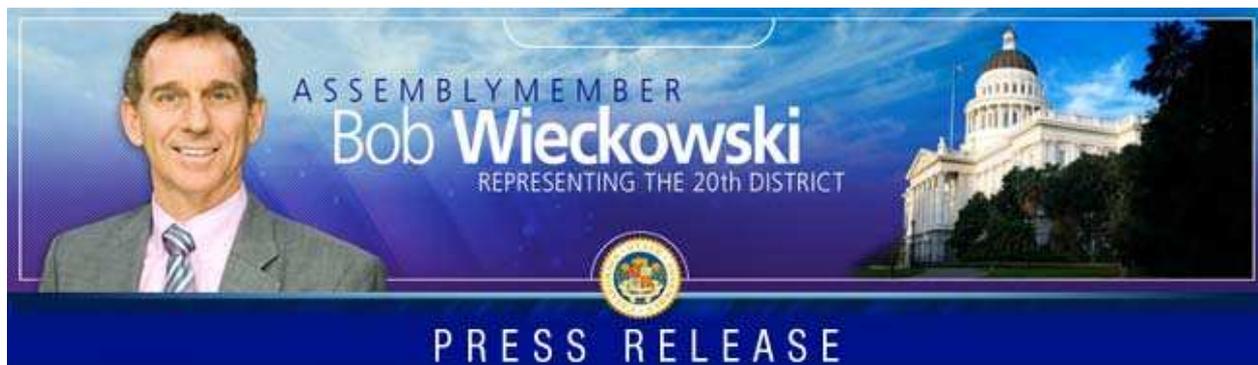
The joint oversight hearing of the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee, chaired by Wieckowski, and the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Wes Chesbro, will take place at 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Monday, Feb. 28 in Room 447 in the state Capitol.

“The use of electronic products has grown substantially over the past two decades and because they contain hazardous materials, it is critical that the state's E-waste recycling program is managed effectively to protect consumers and our environment from the dangerous substances inside these products,” Wieckowski said. “That is true for California and for E-waste exported from our state. We don't want to ship hazardous materials to foreign countries who don't abide by agreed upon international standards for E-waste management. We also want to help expand the recycling markets in California to put more people to work here.”

The Consumer Electronics Association says the average American household owns about 24 electronic products. They contain hazardous substances such as lead, mercury, cadmium, and brominated flame retardants. One study found that 70 percent of toxic heavy metals in landfills come from discarded electronic products.

California established the nation's first E-waste recovery and recycling program in 2003 when it adopted the Electronic Waste Recycling Act. Consumers pay a fee at the time of purchase to fund the program. Collected fees are remitted by retailers to the state. Payments are subsequently paid to approved collectors and recyclers to offset the net cost of appropriate waste recovery and processing.

Capitol Office: State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849 • Sacramento, CA 94249-0020 • (916) 319-2020 • Fax: (916) 319-2120
E-Mail: Assemblymember.Wieckowski@assembly.ca.gov
Web Site: www.asmdc.org/wieckowski



The committees will hear from representatives from the Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery and the Department of Toxic Substance Control. In addition to private recyclers, other witnesses will include representatives from the Silicon Valley Toxic Coalition and Californians Against Waste who will testify on the environmental and public health issues with E-waste management.

Capitol Office: State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849 • Sacramento, CA 94249-0020 • (916) 319-2020 • Fax: (916) 319-2120
E-Mail: Assemblymember.Wieckowski@assembly.ca.gov
Web Site: www.asmdc.org/wieckowski