



LINDA MAIO
Councilmember
District 1

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilmember Linda Maio

SUBJECT: Support of AB 558 Toxics Use Reduction Act

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City of Berkeley support AB 558 – Toxics Use Reduction Act – and send a letter of support to Assemblymember Mike Feuer and Senators Ron Calderon, Mike Machado, Denise Moreno Ducheny, Lou Correa, and Leland Yee.

BACKGROUND:

Assembly Bill 558, introduced by Assemblymember Mike Feuer, 42nd Assembly District, would enact the California Toxic Use Reduction Act, establish three new fees to cover many of the costs associated with its implementation, and makes a continuous appropriation. This bill requires (1) that the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) develop a list of toxic or hazardous substances; (2) that facilities using large quantities of these listed substances in their production processes report to DTSC and develop individual toxic use reduction plans; (3) that these facilities implement measures which would substantially reduce use of these substances; and (4) that DTSC develop regulations regarding the reporting and toxics use fees to fund administration of the California Toxics Use Reduction Act and technical assistance and research associated with assisting chemical users with the implementation of toxic reduction strategies.

AB 558 passed the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on July 10, 2007 and is scheduled to be heard at the Senate Appropriations Committee at the end of August, and then ideally, moving onto the Senate floor in September. This bill would shift to reductions of toxic materials used in the first place, rather than continuing to figure out ways of disposing hazardous waste.

In 1989, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection enacted the Toxics Use Reduction Act and over the past 18 years has reduced toxics use by 41%, toxic byproducts by 65%, toxics shipped in product by 58%, on-site toxic releases by 91%, and transfers of toxics off-site by 56%.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

CONTACT PERSONS:

Councilmember Linda Maio

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(510) 981-7110

