May 30, 2007

The Honorable Linda Adams
Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 1 Street
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: California Green Chemistry Initiative

Dear Secretary Adams;

On behalf of AeA (American Electronics Association) and our nearly 2,700 high tech member companies nationwide, I am writing to thank you for your leadership in launching the California Green Chemistry Initiative. AeA is committed to working with you to ensure that we approach this initiative in a comprehensive, coordinated manner to protect California's environment and recognize the environmental initiatives already underway in California's high tech industry.

The high-tech industry is committed to reducing the environmental impacts of our products throughout their lifecycle: from design, to use, to end-of-life. Many high-tech manufacturers have made significant investment in Design for the Environment (DfE) over the past several years in an effort to minimize the use of certain materials, as well as allow for the ease of recycling of electronic products. Our companies are also world leaders in progressive "green chemistry" policy, and have been some of the first companies to phase out the use of substances that have been proven to be harmful to human health and our environment.

As you know, over the past year there have been over 50 bills introduced in the California Legislature that address chemical policy. Unfortunately we believe that many of these bills, while well intentioned, could do more to address the issue in a comprehensive and thoughtful manner.

AeA believes that any type of "green chemistry" environmental regulation that California enacts must be based on thorough scientific data that has clear evidence that the use of the chemical in a given product causes harm to human health and our environment. When science indicates regulations are necessary, we believe they should be applied equally across industry sectors and not just to the high tech or consumer electronics industry.

AeA also believes that it is necessary for California to think globally when looking at a comprehensive chemical policy. Consumer electronic products are produced for a global market and we believe that chemical policy needs to be harmonized worldwide. California should avoid creating its own unique requirements intended to
address the similar issues and recommendations which were previously and thoroughly developed and implemented in the EU.

Again, AeA would like to thank you for your leadership on this very important issue. Additionally, we look forward to working with you throughout this entire process. Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Roxanne Gould
Senior Vice President
AeA – California Legislative and Public Affairs

Joe Gregorich
Policy Director
AeA – California Government Affairs

Cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Director Maureen Gorsen, Department of Toxic Substances Control
Members, California State Legislature
John Moffatt, Office of the Governor
Patty Zwarts, California Environmental Protection Agency
Rich Brausch, Department of Toxic Substances Control
Bruce Jennings, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Carol Mortensen, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee