Safe Medicine Disposal for San Francisco

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Chapter One of the Environmental Code

The Precautionary Principle
Public Safety Need
Where Does Medicine Go?
SF BOS Supports Producer Responsibility

2006 & 2010
Pilot Take-Back Program – First 33 Months

23 TONS
12 Independent Pharmacies
1 Community Center
10 Police Stations
Pilot Program Drop-off Sites
Two-Key Collection Bins
Residents Prefer Pharmacies

- Pharmacy
- DEA
- Police

Pounds Collected

- April 2012 to June 2014
Industry Grant Funding was Helpful
Industry Grant Funding is Not Sustainable

Only 40% annual operating cost
New Ordinance is Introduced
Time Is Right for An Ordinance
Legal Challenges Resolved in Govt’s Favor
New Federal DEA Rules:
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Pharmacies Allowed to Take Back Controlled Substances
SF Residents Want Permanent & Convenient Solution
Blocked by Industry
6 Stakeholder Meetings Since 2010
19 Other Countries Have This Program
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Other Medicine EPR Programs in U.S.

Alameda County, CA
- Ordinance passed July, 2012
- Court challenge by 3 trade groups
- Federal Appeals Court confirmed (Sept 2014)
- Public hearing on 2 stewardship plans Feb 23

King County, WA
- Regulations passed June, 2013
- Program resumed following Appeal Court ruling
- 2 stewardship plans received for review Feb 12
Home Disposal is Not a Safe Option
Take-Back is the Best Option
Take-Back Works!
How Will This Ordinance Work?