



Mary Bono hosts Washington summit on e-waste solutions

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Electronic Manufacturers and Retailers, Recyclers, Environmentalists and State Officials Explore Options for Safely Disposing Dangerous Electronic Waste

WASHINGTON- Rep. Mary Bono, R-Palm Springs, a member of the the bipartisan Congressional E-Waste Working Group today ,with her colleagues, brought together many of the nation's largest e-waste stakeholders to develop a solution to the growing problem of obsolete electronics disposal, her office announced in a news release.

Participants, including electronic manufacturers and retailers, recyclers, environmental groups and state officials, are discussing the federal government's role in reducing e-waste's effects. They are also looking at how to distribute responsibility for disposal of these items, which range from cell phones, to computers, to televisions.

The Congressional E-Waste Working Group, which includes Reps. Mike Thompson (CA-01), Mary Bono (CA-45), Louise Slaughter (NY-28) and Zach Wamp (TN-03), was formed in 2005 to explore options to the problem of e-waste.

The group invited stakeholders to Capitol Hill to discuss potential solutions.

Bono said in a statement: "Our environment deserves a solution to the ever-expanding technological market and the dramatic increases in e-waste. The federal government recognizes the need to address e-waste concerns and this working group will collectively examine, with stakeholders, the best ways to establish a national policy and define the scope of national effort."

According to the release from Bono's office, "The Government Accountability Office (GAO) estimates that 100 million electronic devices become obsolete each year. The degradation of these devices can release toxic materials into the environment. E-waste now accounts for more than 40 percent of the lead and 70 percent of the metals in U.S. landfills."

Groups represented at today's meeting include Best Buy, Consumer Electronic Association, Consumer Electronics Retailers Coalition, Dell, Electronic Industries Alliance, Electronic Waste Recycling Program, Goodwill Industries International, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, International Scrap Recycling, Kodak, National Recycling Coalition, Panasonic, Product Stewardship Institute, Washington State Department of Ecology, Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, Sony and The Wireless Association.