



EL DORADO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

**INTER OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

August 12, 2008

TO: Helen Baumann, District II Supervisor

FROM: William J. Stephans, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 844 (Berryhill) – Support Recommendation

As you are aware, many ranches, farms, construction yards and sites throughout California are being significantly impacted by the theft of nonferrous metals such as copper, copper alloys, stainless steel and aluminum. Once these metals are stolen, they are immediately turned into cash through recycling businesses and junk dealers with minimal risk to the criminals.

Assembly Bill 844 (Berryhill) directly targets the sale of these stolen metals by requiring junk dealers and recycling businesses to complete and retain additional documentation, including the thumb print and photograph of the seller of the nonferrous metal. These records are reportable to the chief of police or sheriff upon request and on a monthly basis. Additionally, this bill would prohibit a junk dealer or recycler from providing payment for nonferrous material unless the check is mailed or cash is provided no earlier than three days after the date of sale. Although our ranchers and farmers have not experienced the magnitude of thefts as they have in the Central Valley, I encourage the Board to take a support position on this bipartisan bill. Without these additional record requirements and protections, criminals will continue to steal valuable metals without fear of prosecution.

The California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association also supports the passage of this bipartisan bill.

Thank you for your consideration to support AB 844.