



June 10, 2019

Chair Ben Allen, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
 State Capitol, Room 2205
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Emails: Mimi.Holtkamp@sen.ca.gov; Scott.Seekatz@sen.ca.gov

Re: AB 1509 (Mullin & Berman) Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Prevention Act – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Allen:

On behalf of our organizations and members throughout California, we strongly support AB 1509 as amended May 1, 2019, which would create a recycling program for lithium-ion batteries, including both loose batteries as well as ones embedded in products. Reducing the number of improperly disposed of Li-ion batteries entering the waste stream, would help protect the

workers and infrastructure of material recovery facilities (MRFs), transfer stations, collection trucks, and landfills from catastrophic fires.

Lithium-ion batteries have increased multifold in our everyday items, from cell phones and laptops, to power tools and children's toys. According to Call2Recycle, California consumes 64 million Lithium-ion batteries every year, of which 75-92% are improperly disposed of. The high energy density of these batteries makes them extremely dangerous when mishandled, creating very serious fire, health, and safety hazards. As these batteries, and products containing these batteries, enter the waste stream, they have the potential to cause disastrous fires and pose a serious threat to processing facilities as well as their workers. In fact, according to Fire Rover, over 1,700 fires at MRFs in the US and Canada are caused by these batteries annually. This number is likely a low estimate, as many smaller fires go underreported, and the number of li-ion batteries consumed grows multifold every year.

AB 1509 would help reduce the fire and safety risk these batteries pose by ensuring their proper disposal. Manufacturers and retailers must take more responsibility for the products they create if we are going to protect our workers, communities, and waste management infrastructure from battery-related fires.

For these reasons we **SUPPORT AB 1509.**

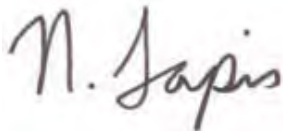
Sincerely,

Joe La Mariana



Executive Director
Rethink Waste

Nick Lapis



Director of Advocacy
Californians Against Waste

Doug Kobold



Executive Director
California Product Stewardship Council

Heidi Sanborn



Executive Director
National Stewardship Action Council

Chuck Helget



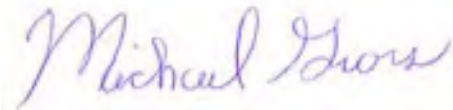
Director, Government Affairs
Republic Services

Eric Potashner



Vice President & Senior Director of Strategic Affairs
Recology

Michael Gross



Director of Sustainability
Zanker Recycling

Tracy M. Adams



Co-Chief Executive Officer
GreenWaste Recovery, Inc.

Fran Dehn



President of the District Board
West Bay Sanitary District

Sharon N. Green



Legislative and Regulatory Liason
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

Lauren Cullum



Policy Advocate
Sierra Club California

Laura Ferrante



Government Affairs Advocate
California Refuse Recycling Council

Veronica Prado



Regulatory Affairs Director, Northern District
California Refuse Recycling Council

John Kelly Astor

John Kelly Astor

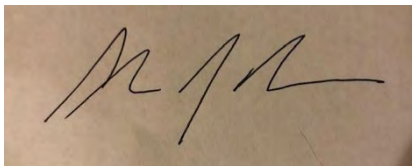
General Counsel, Southern District
California Refuse Recycling Council

Priscilla Quiroz



Legislative Advocate, Shaw/Yoder/Antwih, Inc.
Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)

Adam Rak



City Council Member
City of San Carlos

Andria Ventura

Andria Ventura

Toxics Program Manager
Clean Water Action

Robert McCoy

Robert McCoy

Mayor
City of Thousand Oaks

Anu Natarajan



Legislative Affairs Manager
StopWaste

Dan Domonoske



Executive Vice President
Potential Industries, Inc.

Amy Hammes



Citizen
City of Burbank

Debbie Beyea



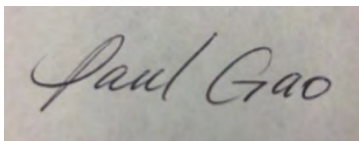
Deputy Director
Ecology Center

Thomas E. Novotny MD MPH DSc (Hon)



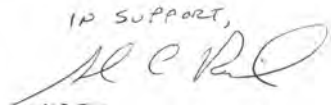
Professor Emeritus, Public Health, San Diego State University
CEO, Cigarette Butt Pollution Project

Paul Y. Gao



President & Chief Executive Officer
CEAR, Inc

Al C. Rich



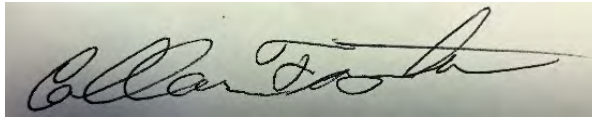
President/Founder
ACR Solar International Corp.

Katherine O'Dea



Executive Director
Save Our Shores

Colleen Foster



President
California Resource Recovery Association

Susan Klassen



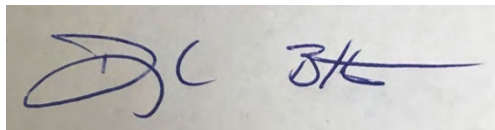
Interim Executive Director
Zero Waste Sonoma

Nate Miley



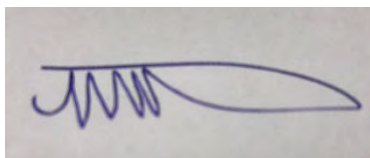
Alameda County Supervisor, District 4
Alameda County Board of Supervisors

Doug Button

Handwritten signature of Doug Button in blue ink, consisting of stylized initials 'DB' followed by a horizontal line.

President
South San Francisco Scavenger Company, Inc and Blue Line Transfer

Robert Nothoff

Handwritten signature of Robert Nothoff in blue ink, featuring a series of vertical wavy lines followed by a horizontal line.

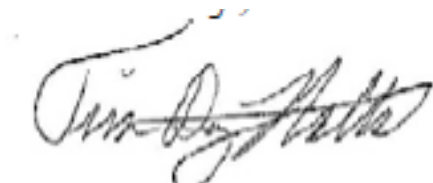
Director, Waste & Recycling Project
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)

Richard James

Richard James

The Coastal Custodian
Coastodian.org

Tim Dewey-Mattia

Handwritten signature of Tim Dewey-Mattia in black ink, written in a cursive style.

Recycling & Public Education Manager
Napa Recycling and Waste Services

Melissa Romero

Melissa Romero

Legislative Affairs Manager
California League of Conservation Voters

Bill Allayaud

Handwritten signature of Bill Allayaud in black ink.

California Director of Government Affairs
Environmental Working Group

Larry Klein

Handwritten signature of Larry Klein in blue ink.

Mayor
City of Sunnyvale

cc: Members, Senate Environmental Quality
Assembly Member Kevin Mullin
Assembly Member Marc Berman



June 10, 2019

Chair Bill Quirk, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 171
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SB 726 (Caballero Author; Principal Co-Author Berman):

Household Hazardous waste: public agencies: materials exchange program

Dear Chair Quirk:

On behalf of the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) and its affiliate, the National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC), and the hundreds of local government and private sector partners that the two organizations represent and the sign-ons to this letter, we urge your support of SB 726, as amended April 3, 2019.

CPSC's mission is to shift California's product waste management system from one focused on government-funded and ratepayer financing to one that relies on producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design. CPSC was so successful we created NSAC in 2015, a national organization to Advocate for a Circular Economy with the vision of achieving a Circular Economy in the United States.

As NSAC is the sponsor of SB 726, we strongly support the goals of this state to source reduce waste first and then manage it properly. To ensure local governments can follow the waste hierarchy for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), we offer this bill to clarify for the oversight agencies including the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and [Certified Unified Program Agencies](#) (CUPA) that HHW facilities are authorized to allow a public agency's contractor to conduct that materials exchange program and would require the contractor to provide those same instructions to a recipient as the public agency.

This is a straight-forward bill which will ensure that local governments who wish to continue or expand their HHW reuse program in accordance with the law and as encouraged by the State, can do so. For these reasons, we, the undersigned, strongly urge your support of SB 726.

Respectfully,



Doug Kobold, Executive Director
California Product Stewardship Council



Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director
National Stewardship Action Council

cc: Members, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee

Attached: Sign-on list of organizations



A Public Agency

June 14, 2019

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 2187
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: AB 161 (Ting) Skip the Slip - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Jackson,

On behalf of RethinkWaste, I am pleased to support AB 161 (Ting), which would reduce paper waste by prohibiting a business from printing a paper receipt if the consumer opts out, unless otherwise required by state or federal law.

RethinkWaste (i.e. South Bayside Waste Management Authority) is a joint powers authority of twelve public agencies (Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, the County of San Mateo and the West Bay Sanitary District) in San Mateo County. Currently, we serve approximately 435,000 residents and 11,000 businesses and have been a leader in the delivery of innovative waste reduction and recycling programs since our formation in 1982.

According to Green America's report, Skip the Slip: Environmental Costs & Human Health Risks of Paper Receipts, found that over 3 million trees and 9 billion gallons of water in the United States are used to create proof of purchase receipts. These receipts generate 302 million pounds of waste and 4 billion pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the equivalent of more than 425,000 cars on the road.

Data from a point-of-sale platform that offers digital receipts shows that their sellers send over 10 million digital receipts each month – proving that electronic receipts are already common and should be bolstered as the primary method to maintain copies of transactions.

California has a staunch history of reducing waste, including through both source reduction and recycling policies and programs. AB 161 builds on this foundation by reducing consumers' reliance on low-grade paper that otherwise cannot be recycled or reused. This has the added co-benefits of saving millions of trees and billions of gallons of water each year.

For these reasons, we are supporting AB 161 (Ting)

610 Elm Street, Suite 202 | P: 650-802-3500 | RethinkWaste.org
San Carlos, CA 94070 | F: 650-802-3501

MEMBER AGENCIES: Town of Atherton • City of Belmont • City of Burlingame • City of East Palo Alto • City of Foster City • Town of Hillsborough
City of Menlo Park • City of Redwood City • City of San Carlos • City of San Mateo • County of San Mateo • West Bay Sanitary District

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe La Mariana". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a horizontal line at the end.

Joe La Mariana
Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Phil Ting



June 12, 2019

Senator Ben Allen
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4076
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

RE: AB 187 (Gracia) – Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling Act – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Senator Allen,

On behalf of our organizations and members throughout California, while we appreciated the opportunity to work with your staff on the bill language, we believe that the most current proposed amendments to the bill are failing to address the following concerns:

1. The mattress recycling organization should not be allowed to maintain section 501(c)(6) status under section 42986(h)

Since the funding for the program comes from the consumer fee which is public money, as such the mattress recycling organization should not be allowed to form as a “for members benefit only” corporation, but rather as a “for public benefit” corporation. Please see the attached white paper, prepared by a legal firm that only practices non-profit law, that specifically addresses IRS 501 C corporation formation. The reason for this requirement to ensure transparency and accountability.

Further, CalRecycle maintains a legislative checklist for EPR bills that also encourages a 501 C3 status. This checklist can be found at:

<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/docs/cr/epr/resources/checklistfinal.pdf>

2. The mattress recycling organization should include at least one California-based mattress recycler or hauler on its Board of Directors.

California-based recyclers and haulers are the existing infrastructure and therefore are a key part of success of the mattress recycling program, therefore, they should have a position on the Board of Directors. This will help to ensure that the MRC harmonizes with the existing infrastructure.

Additionally, the definition of “qualified industry association” in section 42986(k) should delete references to the International Sleep Products Association. The definition of a stewardship

organization should simply set out the parameters of the organization rather than specifically identify a particular organization.

3. CalRecycle should be authorized to set and adjust the recycling and recovery rate goals.

Subsection (h) should be removed from section 42817.1, which discusses the required elements of the mattress recycling plan, and moved to section 42981.5(a)(1), new subsection (C), as a duty of CalRecycle. CalRecycle, rather than the stewardship organization itself, typically determines performance standards, including recycling rates, in other product stewardship programs. This is currently perceived as the “fox watching the chicken coop.”

4. The mattress recycling organization should prioritize using California-based processing facilities as a mattress recycling plan element in section 42987.1(i).

The mattress recycling organization should absolutely be required to prioritize spending California consumer fee money in California by contracting with California-based recyclers over out-of-state recyclers. Additionally, the mattress recycling organization should explain how it prioritized California-based processors/recyclers over out-of-state processors/recyclers in its annual reports in section 42990.1.

5. Section 42987.1(o)(2), which requires mandatory participation in the mattress recycling program of solid waste facilities that accept 1,000 or more mattresses per year should be removed.

Remove Section 42987.1(o)(2). Forcing solid waste facilities into the mattress program will not address the audit findings or achieve the recommendations. First, this is a product stewardship program, so the primary focus in addressing program inadequacies should be on the producers and retailers, bringing them into compliance with basic program requirements, such as registering with the mattress recycling organization and providing free mattress pickup with the delivery of a new mattress. Retailers picking up used mattresses with the delivery of new mattresses is the quickest, easiest, and most convenient way for consumers to get rid of used mattresses. Mattress delivery is typically an additional cost when buying a mattress. Consumers pay the delivery fee because they are unable to transport the new mattress themselves. If they cannot transport the new mattress to their homes, they will not be able to transport the used mattress to a mattress collection location. Additionally, if the primary hurdle to consumers in recycling mattresses is lacking the means to transport a mattress, forcing stationary mattress collection locations will not address the issue of illegal dumping of mattresses.

Instead, the mattress recycling organization should provide financial incentives to encourage all types of permanent drop-off locations, not only solid waste facilities, to participate in the mattress recycling program to achieve an increased level of consumer convenience. We suggest adding this to section 42987.1.

Additionally, section 42987.1(o)(1) provides that individuals may drop off mattresses, at no charge, to solid waste facilities. It should be made clear that this provision only applies to permanent drop-off locations that have agreed to be covered under the mattress recycling program. Those facilities negotiate a reasonable reimbursement rate with the mattress recycling organization for accepting, collecting, storing, transporting, and handling used mattresses. Again, forcing these facilities to participate in the program eliminates their ability to negotiate an effective agreement and rate with the mattress recycling organization for their local areas of service.

6. The mattress recycling organization should be required to prioritize the waste hierarchy and support refurbishing and renovating mattresses.

Prioritizing the waste hierarchy by supporting refurbishing and renovating mattresses should be added as a mattress recycling plan element in section 42987.1. Supporting refurbishing and renovating mattresses is one way to address source reduction.

Additionally, the audit explicitly recommended CalRecycle establish goals to encourage source reduction, as well as to increase consumer convenience and decrease illegal dumping of mattresses. Section 42987.5(a)(1)(C) deleted references to source reduction and illegal dumping, in subsections (ii) and (iii), and focused solely on consumer convenience, in subsection (i). This language should remain unchanged from previous version of the bill. The changes reflected in the proposed amendment would be counter to existing law.

7. The annual report and budget should be combined into one document, which combines the approval process for both.

Section 42987.1(e) discusses the establishment and administration of a means for funding the mattress recycling plan. This is the budget, and this is consistent with the budget process in the carpet stewardship program. Sections 42988 and 42988.1, which discuss the budget, should be deleted in their entirety. They are completely unnecessary and they led to the reduction of the consumer recycling fee against the recommendations of the advisory committee and stakeholder community, while we still had seven counties without any collection options.

Additionally, the budget should be combined into the stewardship plan and subsequent annual report, creating one document and approval process, similar to the carpet and other product stewardship programs, to ensure transparency and streamline the process. As currently drafted, the bill continues two entirely different processes that cause extra work and confusion and can easily be combined into one process as we have already seen successfully modeled in other product stewardship programs.

Similarly, any change in the amount of the recycling fee, discussed in section 42989(c), should happen only during the public annual report or plan review processes.

8. All studies and reports should be made available to the public within 30 days of completion.

All studies and reports developed using California consumer fee money must be made public within 30 days of completion. The reason is that it has been difficult to obtain these studies in the past and all Californians should have access to these reports since they were fund by California consumer fee money. We suggest adding new subsection (c) to section 42989.3

9. The bill should establish a bridge plan to provide mechanisms to minimize disruptions to the recycling infrastructure by ensuring any and all available funds are transferred back to the People of California in the event the stewardship organization ceases program operation.

This has been an issue with all the consumer fee funded programs that were originally passed without consideration given to the possibility of revocation of stewardship program operation. AB 729 contains this exact language to protect consumer fee money. It requires California consumer fee money to be returned to California.

10. The mattress recycling organization should be required to implement the advisory committee's recommendations to the extent feasible.

We suggest adding new subsection in section 42990.1, which discusses the elements required in the mattress recycling organization's annual report, to address the advisory committee recommendations. The mattress recycling organization should incorporate, to the extent feasible, the advisory committee's recommendations in the annual report, the mattress recycling plan itself, and any amendments to the plan. If the mattress recycling organization is unable to incorporate the recommendations, it should provide a written explanation as to why. The explanation should also detail whether the mattress recycling organization plans to incorporate the recommendations into a subsequent mattress recycling plan, subsequent amendments to the plan, or a subsequent annual report. This language models that of the carpet stewardship program in AB 1158.

11. Convenience collection goals should be established by 2020 and effective 2021 in section 42987.5(a)(1)(D).

This change is necessary to be consistent with the audit findings.

12. Because the mattress recycling organization’s financial reserves are capped at 60% of its annual operating expenses in section 42988.3(b), the bill should specify that spending on program implementation should be prioritized over reducing the consumer recycling fee.

The mattress recycling organization should also be directed to prioritize spending reserves to reimburse mattress collectors and recyclers at an appropriate rate and to implement all other aspects of the program and ensure all program goals have been met before reducing the recycling fee. Further, Section 42988.3 (a) should be removed since the budget would be submitted as part of the plan and annual reports. Additionally, Section 42988.3 (b) should be revised to reflect 2021-22 for the 60% requirement, rather than 2027-28, because we see no logical reason for this requirement being delaying so long.

We, the undersigned, strongly request that you consider the changes outlined above and reflected on the attached marked up version of the draft amendments. We will continue to work with your staff to draft language that will improve the mattress recycling program in California, while helping you meet your goals for resolving the findings of the State audit of the program.

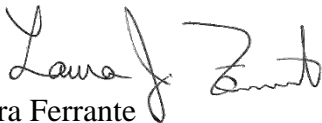
Respectfully,



Doug Kobold, Executive Director
California Product Stewardship Council



Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director
National Stewardship Action Council



Laura Ferrante
California Refuse Recycling Council



Wendy Sommer, Executive Director
StopWaste



Joe La Mariana, Executive Director
ReThink Waste



Nate Miley, County Supervisor, District 4
Alameda County



Shell Cleave, Founder
Sea Hugger



Leslie Mintz Tamminen, Director
Seventh Generation Advisors



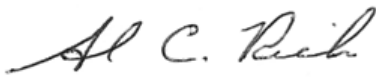
Wendy Sommer, Executive Director
StopWaste



Joe LaMariana, Executive Director
Rethink Waste



Susan Klassen, Executive Director
Zero Waste Sonoma



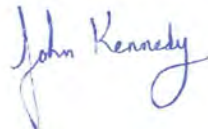
Al Rich, President/Founder
ACR Solar



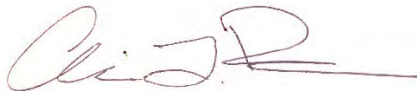
Steve Devine, Program Manager
County of Marin



Colleen Foster, President
California Resource Recovery Association



John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California



Abbie Beane, Managing Director
The Offset Project



Andrew Powers, City Manager
City of Thousand Oaks



A Public Agency

June 3, 2019

The Honorable Richard Pan
Chair, Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 619 (Chiu) – Retail Food: reusable containers and multi-use utensils – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Pan,

On behalf of RethinkWaste, I am pleased to support AB 619 (Chiu), which would allow temporary food facilities to use multi-use utensils and clarify policy regarding filling consumer-owned containers.

RethinkWaste (i.e. South Bayside Waste Management Authority) is a joint powers authority of twelve public agencies (Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, the County of San Mateo and the West Bay Sanitary District) in San Mateo County. Currently, we serve approximately 435,000 residents and 11,000 businesses and have been a leader in the delivery of innovative waste reduction and recycling programs since our formation in 1982.

At events like street festivals, concerts, or state fairs, single-use plastic utensils are commonly handed out by vendors. Most single-use food and beverage containers and utensils provided at community events end up in landfills where they leech toxic chemicals, do not decompose, and cost taxpayer's money to clean up after littering an event site.

Few single-use containers or utensils are fully recyclable or compostable; as a result, they can contaminate recycling and composting operations. California must reduce its dependency on these kinds of single-use materials, given the negative impact to our environment. AB 619 builds on the state's foundation of reducing plastic waste by allowing vendors at events to use reusable utensils instead of single-use ones.

For these reasons, we support AB 619.

Sincerely,

Joe La Mariana
Executive Director

610 Elm Street, Suite 202 | P: 650-802-3500 | RethinkWaste.org
San Carlos, CA 94070 | F: 650-802-3501

MEMBER AGENCIES: Town of Atherton • City of Belmont • City of Burlingame • City of East Palo Alto • City of Foster City • Town of Hillsborough
City of Menlo Park • City of Redwood City • City of San Carlos • City of San Mateo • County of San Mateo • West Bay Sanitary District

Cc: The Honorable Members of the Senate Health Committee
Assembly Member David Chiu



A Public Agency

June 14, 2019

The Honorable Ben Allen, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 2205
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 729 (Chu) – California Carpet Stewardship Reform – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Allen,

On behalf of RethinkWaste, I am pleased to support AB 729 (Chu), which would create mechanisms to minimize disruptions to carpet recycling infrastructure and protect fees paid by consumers if a carpet stewardship program ceases to operate or is revoked.

RethinkWaste (i.e. South Bayside Waste Management Authority) is a joint powers authority of twelve public agencies (Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, the County of San Mateo and the West Bay Sanitary District) in San Mateo County. Currently, we serve approximately 435,000 residents and 11,000 businesses and have been a leader in the delivery of innovative waste reduction and recycling programs since our formation in 1982.

Existing law requires carpet manufacturers that sell carpet in California to implement a stewardship program to increase the recycling rate in the state. However, the current carpet stewardship program has not met goals set in statute resulting in California fee payers unable to recycle their carpet, local government bearing the costs of waste management, recyclable materials in landfills and incinerators, and missed opportunities to expand California’s carpet recycling capacity and develop new markets.

AB 729 (Chu) would implement suggestions from CalRecycle to the legislation that they believe will improve the situation and protect California fee-payers. For these reasons, we support AB 729.

Sincerely,

Joe La Mariana
Executive Director

610 Elm Street, Suite 202 P: 650-802-3500
San Carlos, CA 94070 F: 650-802-3501 RethinkWaste.org

MEMBER AGENCIES: Town of Atherton • City of Belmont • City of Burlingame • City of East Palo Alto • City of Foster City • Town of Hillsborough
City of Menlo Park • City of Redwood City • City of San Carlos • City of San Mateo • County of San Mateo • West Bay Sanitary District

CC: The Honorable Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
The Honorable Kansen Chu



June 14, 2019

The Honorable Ben Allen, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 2205
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 792 (Ting) Plastic beverage containers: minimum recycled content – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Allen,

On behalf of RethinkWaste, I am pleased to support AB 792 (Ting), which would establish recycled-content requirements for plastic beverage containers.

RethinkWaste (i.e. South Bayside Waste Management Authority) is a joint powers authority of twelve public agencies (Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, the County of San Mateo and the West Bay Sanitary District) in San Mateo County. Currently, we serve approximately 435,000 residents and 11,000 businesses and have been a leader in the delivery of innovative waste reduction and recycling programs since our formation in 1982.

In 2018, China adopted its National Sword policy to ban the importation of recycled mixed paper and certain types of recycled plastic, as well as impose a stringent 0.5 percent contamination limit on all other recycled material imports. As a result, California's recycling facilities are struggling to find markets for recycled materials, resulting in stockpiling of these materials. California must reduce its reliance on unpredictable foreign markets for its recycled materials.

California has established minimum recycled content requirements for glass containers, rigid plastic packaging containers, newsprint, trash bags, and other products. However, California does not require the use of recycled content in plastic containers regulated under the California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act.

In California alone, nearly 12 billion plastic bottles are sold every year. While many plastic bottles are made of recyclable content, more than 3 billion bottles are not recycled at all and are dumped in landfills or littered. This bill sets a minimum recycled content standard for plastic bottles in California, encouraging the efficient use of recyclable plastics and helping the state build domestic recycling markets in response to China National Sword.

For these reasons, we support AB 792 (Ting).

610 Elm Street, Suite 202 P: 650-802-3500
San Carlos, CA 94070 F: 650-802-3501 RethinkWaste.org

MEMBER AGENCIES: Town of Atherton • City of Belmont • City of Burlingame • City of East Palo Alto • City of Foster City • Town of Hillsborough
City of Menlo Park • City of Redwood City • City of San Carlos • City of San Mateo • County of San Mateo • West Bay Sanitary District

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe La Mariana". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning of the first name.

Joe La Mariana
Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
The Honorable Phil Ting



A Public Agency

May 30, 2019

The Honorable Benjamin Allen
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 827 (McCarty) – Public resources management: organic waste – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Allen,

On behalf of RethinkWaste, I am pleased to support AB 827 (McCarty), which would require businesses to provide an organic waste recycling bin for customers to dispose their organic waste in.

RethinkWaste (i.e. South Bayside Waste Management Authority) is a joint powers authority of twelve public agencies (Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, the County of San Mateo and the West Bay Sanitary District) in San Mateo County. Currently, we serve approximately 435,000 residents and 11,000 businesses and have been a leader in the delivery of innovative waste reduction and recycling programs since our formation in 1982.

Organic waste is a major source of methane emissions, a potent short-live climate pollutant that is significantly more harmful than other kinds of greenhouse gases. Recognizing this, the state established mandates to reduce methane emissions 40 percent below 2013 levels by 2030. As part of that goal, the state also established a requirement to divert 75 percent of its organic waste from landfills by 2025.

However, in order to achieve these goals, Californians need to change their behavior, starting with understanding that organic waste is recyclable. By requiring businesses to place an organic waste recycling bin on-site, opportunities for organic waste recycling are not only increased, but it reinforces with Californians that it is a reusable resource, much as they do with other materials such as paper, plastic, and aluminum.

For these reasons, we support AB 827 (McCarty).

Sincerely,

Joe La Mariana
Executive Director

610 Elm Street, Suite 202 | P: 650-802-3500 | RethinkWaste.org
San Carlos, CA 94070 | F: 650-802-3501

MEMBER AGENCIES: Town of Atherton • City of Belmont • City of Burlingame • City of East Palo Alto • City of Foster City • Town of Hillsborough
City of Menlo Park • City of Redwood City • City of San Carlos • City of San Mateo • County of San Mateo • West Bay Sanitary District

Cc: The Honorable Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Assembly Member Kevin McCarty



A Public Agency

June 12, 2019

The Honorable Ben Allen, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 2205
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 1162 (Kara) Lodging Establishments: Prohibiting Personal Care Products in Small Plastic Bottles – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Allen,

On behalf of RethinkWaste, I am pleased to support AB 1162, which would prohibit lodging establishments from providing small plastic bottles containing personal care products to guests and holds the lodging establishments liable for civil penalties in the event of a violation.

RethinkWaste (i.e. South Bayside Waste Management Authority) is a joint powers authority of twelve public agencies (Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, the County of San Mateo and the West Bay Sanitary District) in San Mateo County. Currently, we serve approximately 435,000 residents and 11,000 businesses and have been a leader in the delivery of innovative waste reduction and recycling programs since our formation in 1982.

In 2018, China adopted its National Sword policy to ban the importation of recycled mixed paper and certain types of recycled plastics, as well as impose a stringent 0.5 percent contamination limit on all other recycled material imports. As a result, California's recycling facilities are struggling to find markets for recycled materials, resulting in stockpiling of these materials.

The proliferation of plastic waste coupled with the adoption of China's National Sword policy is having a devastating impact on our environment and is adding waste to our landfills. Single-use plastic shampoo bottles and other personal care products represent a sizable amount of waste that can easily be eliminated through more cost-effective and environmentally friendly alternatives.

By not offering small plastic bottles of personal care products, hotels, motels, and other lodging establishments, we can reduce single-use plastic consumption and increase consumer awareness of our use of plastic.

For these reasons, we support AB 1162.

610 Elm Street, Suite 202 | P: 650-802-3500 |
San Carlos, CA 94070 | F: 650-802-3501 | RethinkWaste.org

MEMBER AGENCIES: Town of Atherton • City of Belmont • City of Burlingame • City of East Palo Alto • City of Foster City • Town of Hillsborough
City of Menlo Park • City of Redwood City • City of San Carlos • City of San Mateo • County of San Mateo • West Bay Sanitary District

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe La Mariana". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning of the first name.

Joe La Mariana
Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
The Honorable Ash Kalra