

January 13, 2020

The Honorable Ben Allen
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4076
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 54 (Allen) Solid waste: packaging and products
As Amended September 10, 2019 – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Allen:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors to offer our strong support for SB 54 (Allen), which would require Cal Recycle to adopt a comprehensive regulatory scheme that would help to reduce the waste associated with single use packaging and products 75% by 2030.

Specifically, SB 54 would require producers to register with Cal Recycle and provide data on their single-use packaging to help source reduce to the maximum extent possible. The bill would also allow producers and retailers to work together through a product stewardship organization to help meet California's reduction goals. The bill has recently undergone significant amendments, based off a series of stakeholder meetings, to address concerns from the opposition. With these new amendments some opposition groups, such as the California Groceries Association, have switched from oppose to support.

SB 54 would help California transition away from single-use plastic containers to reusable or compostable packaging. In addition, the bill would promote the development of in-state manufacturing that uses recycled material. Local governments have long been responsible for ensuring that California achieves its recycling and waste management goals and support the efforts of this bill to reduce waste at its source before it gets to our local landfills and recycling centers; or worse to our beaches and other beautiful natural environments.

California's solid waste and recycling industries are facing a series of critical issues. First among these challenges are changes in China's trade import policies. These changes are collectively referred to as "National Sword" and have significantly disrupted California's recycling industry by restricting foreign imports to China of recyclable materials and increasing the requirements for reduced contamination levels in recycling streams. International markets have served as a key component of California's recycling infrastructure. Since the change in China's policy, materials including plastics and paper are piling up at local waste facilities across state with no place to go. This has caused increased costs to local governments, slowdowns in waste processing of other materials, and public health risks.

Source reduction of single-use packaging is a key component in achieving California's state and local environmental goals and it will help with the massive issues posed by China's National Sword policy. It is for these reasons that we support SB 54 (Allen).

Should you have any questions please contact the County's representatives at Nossaman LLP:

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Sincerely,

Chris Lopez
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Cc: Senator Bill Monning
Senator Anna Caballero
Assembly Member Mark Stone
Assembly Member Robert Rivas
Tina Andolina, Senior Policy Consultant, Office of Senator Allen
California State Association of Counties