



September 7, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1200 (Ting) Safer Food Packaging and Cookware Act of 2021 - SUPPORT

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to urge your signature on AB 1200, which would prohibit the sale of paper-based food packaging containing PFAS, require the disclosure of chemicals of concern for human health and the environment in cookware, and prohibit cookware companies from making misleading marketing claims.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of approximately 9,000 man-made chemicals used for a wide range of purposes, including food packaging and cookware. They are called “forever” chemicals because they are extremely resistant to breaking down in nature. Californians are exposed to them through the manufacturing and use of PFAS-containing products, ingesting contaminated drinking water or food, and via air pollution.

PFAS have been linked to severe health problems, including breast and other cancers, hormone disruption, kidney and liver damage, thyroid disease, and immune system disruption. The entire class of PFAS chemicals has been recognized as chemicals of concern by a wide array of scientific experts at the state and federal level. As we cope with a worldwide pandemic, research suggesting PFAS may reduce the immune system's response to vaccinations has compounded the medical, scientific and political concern.

Federal regulation of food packaging and cookware is inadequate, allowing hazardous chemicals in these products. The result is exposure of people and the environment from the manufacturing, use, and disposal of these products.

Single use paper-based food packaging is often coated with PFAS, which can migrate from treated paper wraps, bags, dinnerware and takeout containers into food. When this packaging is composted, the chemicals can re-enter the food chain through compost treated soils. Additionally, food packaging

contributes to PFAS contamination of our waterways through manufacturing releases, litter and by leaching from landfills.

Consumers are also concerned with chemical exposure from **cookware**. A recent report by the Ecology Center¹ found either the PFAS chemical PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene) or the hormone disrupting chemical bisphenol A (BPA) in a majority of the tested cookware. Yet there are no federal or state laws requiring disclosure of any chemicals in cookware. California would be the first state to act on this important right to know issue.

Moreover, several of the tested cookware items advertised that they did not contain a specific PFAS chemical – PFOA – even though the cookware contained PTFE, another form of PFAS. This misleading “PFOA-free” marketing gives consumers the false impression they are buying PFAS-free cookware. AB 1200 prohibits a marketing claim that a product is free of a specific chemical if the product contains another chemical belonging to the same chemical class and if that class is included on the Department of Toxic Substances Control Candidate Chemicals list.

The existing lack of transparency leads the public to unknowingly expose themselves to chemicals of concern. For example, pans may off-gas chemicals when subjected to high heat or may expose a consumer to hazardous chemicals from coatings that are scratched or peeling. Chemicals of concern in cookware may also contribute to pollution both during manufacturing and disposal.

This bill addresses these issues by banning the sale of paper-based food packaging that contains intentionally added PFAS; requiring, for the first time ever, cookware manufacturers to disclose intentionally added chemicals of concern that are in the parts that contact food and in the handles; and prohibiting misleading marketing claims.

For these reasons, we strongly support and respectfully request your signature on AB 1200.

Sincerely,

¹ Ecology Center, [What's Cooking? Nonstick Pan Study 2020](#)

Companies / Industry Associations



Janet Thoman	Compliance Director	Compost Manufacturing Alliance
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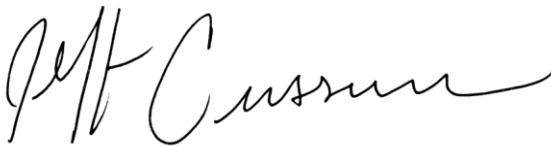
Bob Bowcock	Founder	Integrated Resource Management, LLC
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Ruben Hernandez	Government Affairs Representative	Marin Sanitary Service
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David Krueger	President	Northern California Recycling Association
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Jeff Creswell	Co-Owner	Klean Kanteen
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Public Agency Associations



Jessica Gauger	Director of Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs	California Association of Sanitation Agencies
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NGOs



Katie Huffling	Executive Director	Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
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Jacques Corriveau, MD FAAP	Chair, State Government Affairs Committee	American Academy of Pediatrics, California
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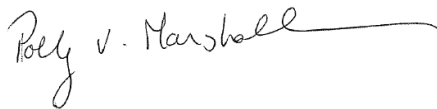
Cheryl Auger	President	Ban Single Use Plastics
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Nourbese Flint	Executive Director	Black Women for Wellness Action Project
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Jayla Burton	Program Manager	Breast Cancer Action
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Polly Marshall	Executive Director	Breast Cancer Over Time
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Kathleen Miller	Co-founder	California Health Coalition Advocacy
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Swati Sharma	Research and Policy Consultant	California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative
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Doug Kobold	Executive Director	California Product Stewardship Council
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Nick Lapis	Director of Advocacy	Californians Against Waste
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Jenn Engstrom	State Director	CALPIRG
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Alma Marquez	Executive Director	Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice CCA EJ
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Rebecca Spector	West Coast Director	Center for Food Safety
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Christopher Chin	Executive Director	Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education (COARE)
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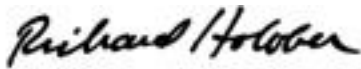
Lenny Siegel	Executive Director	Center for Public Environmental Oversight
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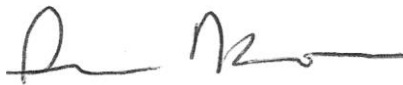
Mark S. Rossi	Executive Director	Clean Production Action
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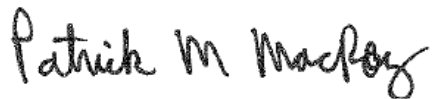
Bill Magavern	Policy Director	California Coalition for Clean Air
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Robert Herrell	Executive Director	Consumer Federation of California
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Irene Kao	Executive Director	Courage California
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Patrick MacRoy	Deputy Director	Defend Our Health
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Kristie Sepulveda-Burchit	Executive Director	Educate. Advocate.
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Erin Brockovich	Founder, Director	Erin Brockovich Foundation
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Lendri Purcell	Co-Founder and President	Families Advocating for Chemical & Toxics Safety (FACTS)
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Jim Lindburg	Legislative Consultant	Friends Committee on Legislation of California
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Lisa Archer	Director, Food and Agriculture Program	Friends of the Earth
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Emily Parker	Coastal and Marine Scientist	Heal the Bay
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Jose Bravo

Jose Bravo	Executive Director	Just Transition Alliance
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Shaney Jo Darden	Founder	Keep A Breast Foundation
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Amy Ziff	Founder, Executive Director	MADE SAFE / Nontoxic Certified
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Ted Thompson JD	Senior Vice President, Public Policy	Michael J Fox Foundation
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Heidi Sanborn	Executive Director	National Stewardship Action Council
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Veronica Padilla

Veronica Padilla	Executive Director	Pacoima Beautiful
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Julie Andersen	Global Executive Director	Plastic Oceans International
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Dianna Cohen	CEO + Co-Founder	Plastic Pollution Coalition
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Grace Lee	Director	ReThink Disposable
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Sarah Doll	Executive Director	Safer States
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Sejal Choksi-Chugh	San Francisco Baykeeper	Executive Director
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Robert M. Gould, MD	President	San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility
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Laura Anthony	Coordinator	Save the Albatross Coalition
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Katherine O'Dea

Katherine O'Dea	Executive Director	Save Our Shores
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Ted Schettler MD, MPH

Ted Schettler MD, MPH	Science Director	Science and Environmental Health Network
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Leslie Mintz Tamminen

Leslie Mintz Tamminen	Director	Seventh Generation Advisors
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Lauren Cullum

Lauren Cullum	Policy Advocate	Sierra Club California
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Anna Cummins

Anna Cummins	Interim Executive Director and CoFounder	The Five Gyres Institute
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Miriam Gordon

Miriam Gordon	Policy Director	UPSTREAM
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Mati Waiya

Mati Waiya	Executive Director	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation
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Jamie McConnell

Jamie McConnell	Deputy Director	Women's Voices for the Earth
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Liza Gradin

Liza Grandia, PhD	Coordinator	Woodland Coalition for Green Schools
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Maggie Robbins	Occupational & Environmental Health Specialist	Worksafe
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Ruth Abbe	President	Zero Waste USA
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