



May 17, 2022

Assembly Member Chris Holden  
 Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
 1021 O Street, Suite 8220  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1953 (Maienschein) - Drinking water: accessible water bottle refill stations - Support**

Dear Assembly Member Holden,

We, the undersigned organizations, are proud to support AB 1953 by Assembly Member Maienschein. This bill will require various public areas to install and maintain accessible water

bottle refill stations in addition to existing water fountains. Ensuring water refill stations not only improves accessibility to drinking water, but also reduces waste and creates lasting infrastructural support for consumers opting for reuse.

We are amending the public spaces covered by the bill significantly to reduce costs. The bill will only cover transit hubs, recreation centers located within a local park, and state buildings that have a pre-existing water infrastructure source.

According to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, nearly one million Californians lack access to clean water. Additionally, climate change is exacerbating problems with water quality, availability and affordability. The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) reports that during the 2012–16 drought, at least 2,600 well-dependent households in California faced drinking water shortages, while more than 150 water systems applied for emergency state funding to address supply and quality problems.

In addition to bridging the gap in water access, making water refill stations more accessible and investing in reuse infrastructure to support reuse systems for reusable water bottles and other refillable containers can prevent pollution and waste. Around 60 million plastic bottles end up in landfills every single day, and Americans alone send more than 38 billion water bottles to landfills every year, the equivalent of 912 million gallons of oil. Public drinking water infrastructure needs improvement to meet consumer needs for clean drinking water, with the added benefit of provided sustainably, and at little to no cost.

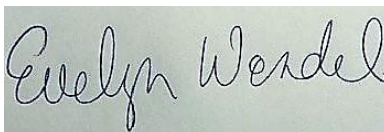
California faces many challenges in providing clean, safe and affordable drinking water infrastructure to all of its citizens, including homelessness, low-income, and minority communities, which can also contribute to plastic water bottle consumption. Public drinking water infrastructure needs improvement to meet consumer needs for clean drinking water, with the added benefit of provided sustainably, and at little to no cost to consumers. AB 1953 addresses these issues of water access and waste reduction through the simple win-win solution of improving access to water refill stations.

AB 1953 addresses these issues of water access and waste reduction through the simple solution of improving access to refill stations. For the reasons described above, we strongly support AB 1953 (Maienschein) and urge your and the committee's support when the bill is heard in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

Sincerely,



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Policy Associate,  
Californians Against Waste



Evelyn Wendel  
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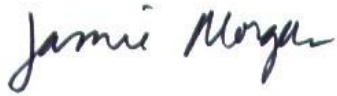
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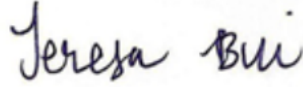
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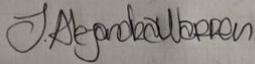
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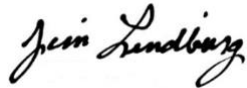
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Cc: Assembly Member Brian Maienschein  
Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations