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June 24, 2022

The Honorable Ben Allen
California State Senate, District 26th
1021 O Street, Suite 3230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: SB 54 (Allen) Solid waste: reporting, packaging, and food service ware. – Support

Dear Senator Allen:

On behalf of the Board of CPSC, I write to express our support for SB 54, which would require manufactures of single-use, disposable packaging, and food service ware to ensure that products sold into the state are either recyclable or compostable by 2032. This measure reflects three years of negotiations and compromises necessary to develop this monumental measure that offers a comprehensive solution to reduce the number of single-use plastics in California.

For several years, California was sending roughly one-third of the materials annually collect for recycling to China for processing and manufacturing into new products. In 2017, China accounted for 55 percent of the recyclable exports California shipped overseas. Over the last several years, new restrictions on the import and export of mixed plastics have removed much of the global market for those materials. These restrictions are having a significant impact on California's solid waste and recycling systems. Products that Californians long assumed were easily recyclable but are now piling up with nowhere to go.

Beginning January 1, 2032, SB 54 would require manufactures of single-use packaging and plastic single-use food service ware to ensure that those products sold, distributed, or imported into the state are either recyclable or compostable. In order to meet these rates and dates, SB 54 also would require plastic manufacturers to join a product responsibility organization (PRO) to meet the bill's requirements. CPSC believes that SB 54's focus on requiring manufacturers to design single-use disposable packaging and food service ware to be recyclable or compostable will help address these challenges and facilitate achievement of the state's solid waste management objectives.

While CPSC is in support of this measure, we encourage you to work with CalRecycle, during the implementation process to ensure that CalRecycle has the authority to make changes to approved plans by the PRO, should conditions change during the 5-year period of the stewardship plan and "take away the keys" from the PRO within the first eight years, if there are problems within the program.

SB 54 establishes the most comprehensive and environmentally ambitious producer responsibility program for single-use, disposable packaging material and plastic food service ware to date. For these reasons, we are pleased to SUPPORT SB 54. Thank you for authoring this historic piece of legislation that will address plastic pollution, improve our materials management system, and protect our environment. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Doug Kobold
Executive Director