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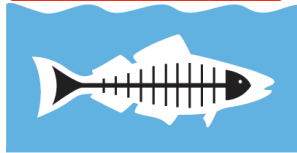
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The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, & Education



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NATIONAL STEWARDSHIP ACTION COUNCIL™
ADVOCATING FOR A CIRCULAR & EQUITABLE ECONOMY



Heal the Bay



ecology center



March 29, 2022

Assemblymember Bill Quirk
Chair, Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
1020 N Street, Room 171
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1953 (Maienschein) Drinking water: accessible water bottle refill stations – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Quirk,

We, the undersigned organizations, are proud to support Senate Bill 1953 by Assemblymember Maienschein. This bill will improve water accessibility and support consumer choices by requiring

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 creates lasting infrastructural support for consumers opting for reuse.

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.

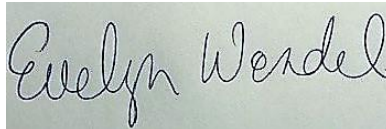
In addition to bridging the gap in water access, making water refill stations more accessible and investing in reuse infrastructure to support reuse systems for reusable water bottles and other refillable containers can prevent pollution and waste. Around 60 million plastic bottles end up in landfills 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.

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 support when the bill is heard in the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources.

Sincerely,



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Founding Director,
We Tap



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By: 
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Andy Keller
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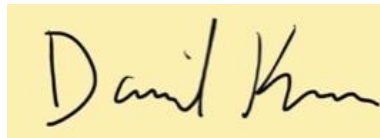
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CC: Members, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
Assemblymember Brian Maienschein