



April 19, 2022

Senator Ben Allen
California State Senate, District 26th
1021 O Street, Suite 3230
Sacramento, CA 95814
Submitted via Position Letter Portal

RE: SB 1187 (Kamlager) – Fabric Recycling Pilot – STRONGLY SUPPORT

Dear Senator Ben Allen:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, as part of the 13 members making up the Statewide Textile Recovery Advisory Committee hosted by the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), we support SB 1187, calling for public-private partnerships for a fabric recycling pilot project(s) in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. We hope SB 1187 passes and adds to the accomplishments of locally funded pilot projects for textile recovery. We also hope that passing the bill doesn't preempt future policies, local or statewide, to create a permanent recovery program.

CPSC is leading four publicly funded textile recovery pilot projects, two on behalf of the City and County of Los Angeles. These pilot projects mapped existing infrastructure and local champions recovering textiles in alignment with the waste hierarchy, meaning repair and reuse are prioritized over recycling. The success of the projects resulted in a Phase 2 to scale-up sorting capacity with a high-capacity sorting facility currently under construction and to also expand existing infrastructure in the Los Angeles area.

The public has already funded fiber recycling infrastructure through carpet and mattress stewardship fees, and many of the same recyclers are ready to receive textiles sorted to their specifications. Funding from CalRecycle will ignite much needed recovery efforts, but inevitably, a long-term program will need ongoing funding, which we believe should be a shared cost-burden with the textile industry. Textile and clothing producers over-produce hard-to-manage materials that don't mix well into the other recovery streams since they tangle, absorb, and ignite regularly in Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) around the state.

Any future textile recovery program should engage the textile industry for funding to avoid risks and costs to small businesses, local government, and environmental justice communities. For too long, textiles have been collected under the guise of recycling, and ended up being sent as unusable materials to secondhand clothing markets with less infrastructure and environmental protections.

We respectfully request that the Committee Members pass the bill out of committee and consider language that avoids preemption of ongoing programs that have begun before 2027, while also clearly delineating industry funding for the private buy-in to co-fund the pilot projects.

SB 1187 will help address the under-reported and growing textile waste problem and sets the stage for Southern California to thrive as a center for sustainable fashion.

For these reasons, we strongly support SB 1187 and appreciate your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Doug Kobold, Executive Director
California Product Stewardship Council

Linda Pratt

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