



September 7, 2021

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

**Re: AB 818 (Bloom) Solid waste: premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes-  
SIGNATURE REQUEST**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the listed organizations, we are pleased to express our **STRONG SUPPORT** for **AB 818 (Bloom)**, as amended July 1, 2021, which establishes standardized labeling for single-use wet wipes to provide clear and consistent consumer information about what products are not safe to flush. We respectfully request that you **SIGN AB 818** when it comes before you.

The widespread availability of both flushable and non-flushable wipes and lack of clear and consistent labeling leads to consumer confusion about how to properly dispose of these products. Consumers frequently use the toilet to dispose of wipes used for babies, cosmetics, surface cleaning, and disinfecting, resulting in costly home plumbing and public sewer clogs.

Since your Stay-At-Home order, [Executive Order N-33-20](#), enacted on March 19, 2020, a shortage of toilet paper has resulted in people turning to baby wipes, and flushing them. As a result, local officials reported a large influx of non-flushable debris in sewer systems, causing costly and dangerous maintenance. For over a decade, wipes have been one of the leading causes of residential and public sewer system clogs, spills, and equipment problems, costing California wastewater operators at least \$50 million a year. These clogs also result in environmental damages

when sewers overflow and when wipes shed plastic microfibers, causing microplastic particles in wastewater effluent.

Following the onset of the statewide Stay-At-Home order, agencies that have never experienced wipes-related sewer overflows have now reported their first wipes related clogs and sewer spills. Several agencies have reported total equipment failures when their pump systems are overwhelmed with wipes, costing them \$60K per pump. Agencies are reporting increases in maintenance intervals to unclog heavy equipment like pumps and lift stations, and to clear sewer lines with high powered jets. The problems were so pronounced that on March 17, 2020, the State Water Resources Control Board issued a public advisory to stop flushing wipes.

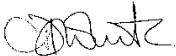
To solve these problems, AB 818 would require certain single use wet wipes to be clearly labeled with "DO NOT FLUSH" and a related symbol. AB 818 would also establish the California Consumer Education and Outreach Program to ensure the public understands they should not flush wipes and requires manufactures to participate in a collection study, conducted in collaboration with wastewater agencies, to gain an understanding of consumer behavior on premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes.

For the many reasons described above, we **STRONGLY SUPPORT AB 818 (Bloom)** and respectfully request that you **SIGN** this legislation when it comes before you.

Sincerely,



Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director  
National Stewardship Action Council



Theresa White, Snr. Executive Officer  
Natracare



Nick Lapis, Director of Advocacy  
Californians Against Waste



Andria Ventura, Legislation and Policy  
Director  
Clean Water Action



Andy Rodgers, Executive Director  
Russian River Watershed Association



Katherine O'Dea, Executive Director  
Save Our Shores



Melissa Morton, District Manager  
Vallejo Flood and Wastewater District



David Stitzhal, President  
Full Circle Environmental



Shell Cleave, Founder  
Sea Hugger



Eric Zetz, Director  
Merced County Regional Waste  
Management Authority



Patty Garbarino, President  
Marin Sanitary Service



Leslie Tamminen, Director  
7th Generation Advisors



Catherine Freeman, Legislative  
Representative  
California State Association of Counties



Lauren Cullum, Policy Advocate  
Sierra Club California



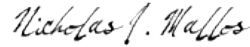
Derek Dolfie, Legislative Representative  
League of California Cities



Larry Klein, Mayor  
City of Sunnyvale



Doug Kobold, Executive Director  
California Product Stewardship Council



Nicholas J. Mallos, Senior Director, Trash  
Free Seas  
Ocean Conservancy



Joe La Mariana, Executive Director  
RethinkWaste



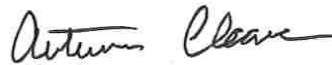
Paul Koretz, Council District 5  
Los Angeles City Councilmember



Emily Parker, Coastal and Marine Scientist  
Heal the Bay



Leslie Lukacs, Executive Director  
Zero Waste Sonoma

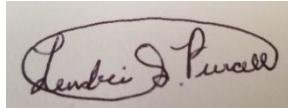


Autumn Cleave, Co-Chair  
Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group



Pat Bakalian, California Coordinator

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy  
Environments



Lendri Purcell, Co-Founder and President  
Families Advocating for Chemical & Toxins  
Safety (FACTS)



Pamela Flick, California Program Director  
Defenders of Wildlife



Mia Davis, VP of Sustainability & Impact  
Credo Beauty



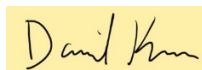
Tracie Bills, Executive Director  
California Resource Recovery Association



Miho Ligare, Plastic Pollution Policy  
Coordinator  
Surfrider Foundation



Michael Gross, Director of Sustainability  
Zanker Recycling



David Krueger, President  
Northern California Recycling Association



Julie Andersen, Global Executive Director  
Plastic Oceans International



Ruth Abbe, President  
Zero Waste USA



Mati Waiya, Executive Director  
Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation



Miriam Gordon, Policy Director  
UPSTREAM



Anna Cummins, Interim Executive Director  
& Co-Founder  
The 5 Gyres Institute



Christopher Chin, Executive Director  
The Center for Oceanic Awareness,  
Research, and Education (COARE)



Dianna Cohen, Chief Executive Officer  
Plastic Pollution Coalition

Beverly Hanstrom, CEO/Owner  
Colorado Medical Waste

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beverly Hanstrom", written in a cursive style.