



736 F Street
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City Manager (707) 822-5953	Police 822-2428	Recreation 822-7091
Community Development 822-5955	Finance 822-5951	Transportation 822-3775
Environmental Services Streets/Utilities 822-5957	Environmental Services Community Services 822-8184	Engineering & Building 825-2128

May 21, 2019

The Honorable Ben Allen
California State Senate
State Capitol Building, Room 4076
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 54 (Allen) California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act.
Notice of SUPPORT (As Amended 5/7/19)

Dear Senator Allen:

The City of Arcata is pleased to **support** your SB 54 (Allen), the California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act. This bill directs the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to adopt regulations requiring manufacturers to source reduce and recycle 75% of single-use packaging and products sold or distributed in California by 2030. The bill also requires all single-use plastic packaging distributed and used in California to be recyclable or compostable by 2030.

This bill would both reduce the plastic pollution that many single-use plastics cause in our waterways and oceans and remove materials that are often landfilled from entering the waste stream. If local governments are to meet the current statewide solid waste and recycling goals, more materials will need to be recycled or diverted from landfills. Additionally, this bill requires single-use plastics to be recyclable or compostable by 2030. By making single-use plastics recyclable or compostable, SB 54 would help local governments recycle more materials, throw less waste into landfills, and advance towards meeting statewide solid waste and recycling goals. The City of Arcata is supportive of meeting these goals and applauds efforts that help local governments achieve them.

Another important component of SB 54 is that it seeks to address the lack of recycling markets in California. California's solid waste and recycling systems are facing serious challenges. For decades, California sold the majority of its recyclable materials to China. However, over the last several years, China banned the importation of certain recyclables through the adoption of its "National Sword" policy, and in 2018 announced its intent to ban all imports of recyclable materials by 2020. International markets, such as China, have been a critical component to California's recycling infrastructure. The combination of international policies has nearly

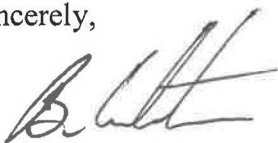
collapsed the recyclable materials market in California. The recyclable materials once shipped overseas are piling up with nowhere to go.

SB 54 will help to reduce the economic impact of disposing unnecessary single-use plastics. Currently, residents and business owners in the City of Arcata spend over 3.6 million dollars annually on garbage and recycling services.

Cities, like ours, have dedicated significant time and resources to develop and implement their recycling programs, and want to ensure city recycling programs continue to be successful. This bill is a step in the right direction to reduce the amount of single-use plastics, increase the availability of recyclable materials, and help develop in-state recycling markets.

For these reasons, the City of Arcata **supports** SB 54.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Watson", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brett Watson, Mayor
City of Arcata

cc:

Senator Mike McGuire, Senator.McGuire@senate.ca.gov & VIA FAX: (916) 651-4902

Congressman Jared Huffman, John.Driscoll@mail.house.gov

Assembly Member Jim Wood, VIA FAX: (707) 445-6607 & (916) 319-2102

Sara Sanders, League Regional Public Affairs Manager, sanders@cacities.org

Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org