



June 28, 2022

VIA Online Portal to Author and Assembly Committees on Natural Resources and Appropriations

The Honorable Ben Allen
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6610
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 54 (Allen): Plastic Pollution Producer Responsibility Act–SUPPORT

Dear Senator Allen:

The League of Women Voters of California writes in support of SB 54 (Allen) as amended June 26, 2022. SB 54 is not only the best Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) bill in the country, but also extends beyond the pure EPR approach by making the producers pay to mitigate environmental damage over a 10-year period totaling \$5 billion. We have learned lessons from implementing the previous stewardship and producer responsibility programs in California and beyond, and SB 54 contains protections and benefits from those prior experiences.

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, created by AB 939 (Sher), established the waste management hierarchy with source reduction first, then recycling and composting. Unfortunately, California has never prioritized source reduction before recycling and SB 54 will finally prioritize source reduction first in a program. California also set the goal to source reduce, compost to recycle 75% of solid waste generated by 2020. California failed and currently has less than 40% waste reduction because we never had a plan to achieve the goal which is why we need to pass SB 54.

SB 54 is the first bill in California to truly support all three tenets of achieving a Circular Economy which are to: eliminate waste and pollution; circulate products and materials at their highest value; and regenerate nature.

This is the strongest and most comprehensive packaging bill in the nation. It's groundbreaking in that we will finally reduce waste first and make the polluter pay for the recycling system and for remediating environmental damage. **The League of Women Voters of California supports SB 54 (Allen) and urges its passage.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Moon Goldberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Moon Goldberg
President