



April 22, 2022

The Honorable Chris Holden  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 5650  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1985 (R. Rivas): Compost & Mulch Market Development Act  
As Introduced February 10, 2022 – SUPPORT  
Set for Hearing – April 27, 2022 – Assembly Appropriations Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Holden:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) are pleased to support AB 1985 (R. Rivas), which would create an online database of organic waste products on the market to enable local governments to connect with local farmers and community members seeking their products.

Organics like food scraps, yard trimmings, paper, and cardboard make up half of what Californians dump in landfills and emit 20% of the state's methane. In a critical effort to reduce methane and other short-lived climate pollutant emissions, California set organic waste diversion targets of 50% by 2020 and 75% by 2025 (SB 1383 Lara, 2016). To drive infrastructure investment and create demand for organic waste products, the SB 1383 regulations required cities and counties by January 1, 2022, to procure a specific quantity of organic waste products based on their population.

California Counties have been working diligently to comply with the various requirements of SB 1383 (2016), including updating franchise hauling contracts, creating a new exclusive commercial franchise, developing a generator ordinance, and expanding the existing food donation program.

As jurisdictions ramp up their organic waste collection programs, many cities and counties are struggling to meet their procurement targets due to a limited amount of organic waste infrastructure across the state. In many cases, local governments also struggle to connect with end markets for the organic waste they do process. Jurisdictions are seeking out unique and creative pathways to help them achieve these targets that can simultaneously vitalize a growing organic waste recycling market.

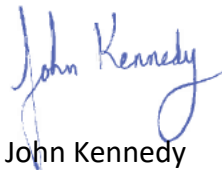
AB 1985 will assist local governments in achieving their procurement targets by creating an online database of organic waste products on the market across the state. This online database will enable local governments to connect directly with local farmers and community members seeking their products. With cities and counties required to procure large amounts of compost and mulch per year, this bill will help facilitate these products going somewhere they are needed, while also maximizing the benefits to local communities.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 1985 (R. Rivas).

Sincerely,



Catherine Freeman, Legislative Representative  
Legislative Representative  
California State Association of Counties  
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cc: Honorable Robert Rivas, California State Assembly  
Honorable Members and Staff, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Kirstin Kolpitcke, Assembly Republican Caucus