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September 14, 2021

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

**Re: AB 818: Solid Waste: Disposable Wipes
Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) I write to request your signature on AB 818 (Bloom), which establishes standardized labeling for single-use wet wipes to provide clear and consistent consumer information about what products are not safe to flush.

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. A shortage of toilet paper during the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated this problem, and resulted in 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.

To address this problem, AB 818 would require certain single use wet wipes to be clearly labeled with "DO NOT FLUSH," and establish the California Consumer Education and Outreach Program. For these reasons, CSAC supports AB 818 and requests your signature on the measure. Please do not hesitate to reach out for more information about our position.

.Sincerely,

Catherine Freeman
Legislative Representative
cfreeman@counties.org

CC: The Honorable Richard Bloom, California State Senate