



August 24, 2021

The Honorable Philip Ting
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1201 – SUPPORT
As Amended August 18, 2021**

Dear Assembly Member Ting:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), we write in support of your Assembly Bill 1201, relating to product compostability claims.

Assembly Bill 1201 will improve the quality of inputs into the compost stream and prohibit the use of problematic chemicals in compostable products. AB 1201 also requires compostable products to be labeled so consumers and processing facilities can quickly and clearly distinguish them from noncompostable products.

In California, local governments are the backbone of solid waste management and recycling. Local governments must divert 50 percent of solid waste from landfill disposal through source reduction, recycling, and composting. Recent CalRecycle regulations require local governments to achieve new state targets to reduce landfill disposal of organic waste 75 percent by 2025 and increase edible food waste recovery 20 percent.

We are pleased to support AB 1201 because it will reduce costs associated with removing non-compostable material from the compost stream and ultimately help improve the quality of end products. Local governments and the solid waste industry have no control over which products will be introduced into the marketplace and for which they will ultimately be responsible for management and disposal. If products are mislabeled as compostable and work their way into the compost stream, they can be expensive to remove, contaminate the resulting compost, and/or substantially diminish the value and utility of the commodity. By requiring compostable products to be clearly distinguishable, this bill will help consumers and processing facility employees quickly determine what should become compost and what should be landfilled. Establishing new performance standards for compostable materials will also help improve the quality and marketability

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of the end product. Finally, restricting use of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in compostable materials will help avoid contamination in the compost stream and the environment. Together these changes will help to slightly soften some of the costs that ratepayers and local governments will bear in implementing the state's new organic waste recycling law.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 1201. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact John Kennedy of RCRC at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org, Derek Dolfie of Cal Cities at ddolfie@cacities.org, or Catherine Freeman of CSAC at cfreeman@counties.org.

Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY
Legislative Advocate
RCRC



DEREK DOLFIE
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
Cal Cities



CATHERINE FREEMAN
Legislative Representative
CSAC

cc: The Honorable Laura Friedman, Member of the State Assembly
The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Member of the State Assembly
The Honorable Devon Mathis, Member of the State Assembly
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Ashley Ames, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Rylie Ellison, Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Elizabeth MacMillan, Consultant, Assembly Natural Resources Committee