



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

April 12, 2024

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear  
Member, California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Room 7340  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 1426 – Oppose  
As Amended April 10, 2024**

Dear Senator Blakespear:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we regretfully oppose your Senate Bill 1426 regarding solid and organic waste management. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties; the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties.

Senate Bill 1426 seeks to change the way in which solid and organic waste are collected and diverted from landfill disposal. Unfortunately, SB 1426 obstructs local efforts to achieve the state's solid and organic waste diversion and recycling goals; overrides existing franchise agreements for the collection and recycling of organic waste; and erodes the opportunity to realize local benefits as a result of those programs.

With respect to non-organic waste streams, we fear SB 1426 will restrict the ability for local governments and franchisees to enter into supplemental contracts for the provision of collection services outside of the scope of the franchise agreements. These commonly include roll-off bins for waste diversion and recycling, curbside household hazardous waste collection, etc. SB 1426 also appears to only allow franchisees to provide those services specifically included under the existing franchise agreement.

With respect to organic waste, RCRC is deeply concerned that SB 1426 allows other entities to override exclusive franchise agreements for the collection and diversion of organic wastes. Even more concerning is that SB 1426 preempts local government regulation of generators and providers in this space. As crafted, SB 1426 poses a real risk of eroding local benefits resulting from organic waste recovery and recycling programs, as it facilitates the collection and long-distance transportation of organics (including edible food) that could have otherwise been donated to local food recovery organizations or used locally for other beneficial purposes. As drafted, SB 1426 would

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leave little, if any, room left to local governments to regulate these activities and ensure that the benefits of organics and edible food recovery remain local.

For these reasons, RCRC must oppose SB 1426. Notwithstanding our opposition to the framework proposed in SB 1426, we look forward to working with you to find innovative strategies to managing recyclable packaging and other hard-to-recycle materials. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jkennedy@rcrcnet.org](mailto:jkennedy@rcrcnet.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "K" and "y".

JOHN KENNEDY  
Senior Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Benjamin Allen, Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Brynn Cook, Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Scott Seekatz, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus