



April 12, 2023

The Honorable Gregg Hart
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 6230
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1548 – SUPPORT
As Amended March 16, 2023**

Dear Assembly Member Hart:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), South Bayside Waste Management Authority (ReThinkWaste), Solid Waste Association of North America Legislative Task Force – California Chapters (SWANA), Western Placer Waste Management Authority (WPWMA), and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) we are pleased to support your Assembly Bill 1548, regarding CalRecycle's grant program for solid and organic waste recycling.

Assembly Bill 1548 expands CalRecycle's existing solid and organic waste recycling grant program to help local governments get recycled material into the marketplace, find new homes for useful consumer goods, and expand local edible food recovery programs.

AB 1548 will help locals procure and install infrastructure that will expand the amount and diversity of recyclable materials that can be sent back into the marketplace to make new products. While CalRecycle's grant program already helps fund manufacturers who use recycled materials, it does not currently provide funding to help locals get those materials into the marketplace. AB 1548 closes an eligibility gap that will help locals, the state, and manufacturers better achieve the state's recycling and circular economy goals.

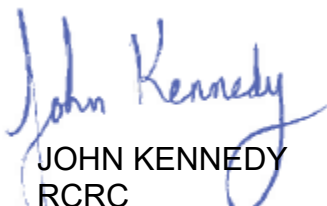
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AB 1548 could also help local governments secure state funding to develop reuse programs to keep useful consumer goods out of the landfill. For example, Yolo County established a Big Blue Barn Thrift Store at their county landfill to divert materials from landfill disposal by offering them back to the public for a second life. Items offered a second life include bicycles, toys, sporting goods and equipment, clean wood, doors, windows, flooring, lamps, electronics, furniture, office supplies, cabinetry, tools, housewares, etc. This program could be replicated by other local governments to help the state achieve its diversion and reuse goals.

Finally, AB 1548 clarifies that CalRecycle's grant program may be used to purchase equipment and construct facilities to build or expand edible food recovery programs. As local governments develop SB 1383 programs, this funding will help us meet infrastructure and capacity challenges to get recovered food to hungry Californians.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support your AB 1548.

Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY
RCRC
Policy Advocate




JOE LA MARIANA
ReThinkWaste
Executive Director



CHRISTINA HANSON
SWANA CALIFORNIALTF
Chair



KEVIN BELL
WPWMA
Deputy Executive Director



ADA WAELDER
CSAC
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Luz Rivas, Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Elizabeth MacMillan, Consultant, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Casey Dunn, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus