



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

August 22, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 642 (Cortese) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 642 (Cortese) regarding hazardous waste enforcement actions. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties. RCRC was pleased to co-sponsor SB 642 with Santa Clara County and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

Senate Bill 642 allows county counsels to bring actions to enforce violations of the state's underground storage tank, aboveground storage tank, medical waste, and hazardous materials business plan laws.

County counsels have long been able to enforce violations of various hazardous waste control laws included in Chapter 6.5 of Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code. Under those laws, actions can be brought by county counsels, district attorneys, city attorneys, or the Attorney General. Unfortunately, other hazardous waste management and control laws related to storage tanks, medical waste, and hazardous materials business plans are in other chapters of the Health and Safety Code and can only be enforced by district attorneys, city attorneys, or the Attorney General. SB 642 merely ensures that county counsels can bring actions against entities violating the state's hazardous waste laws to ensure adequate enforcement and eliminate unfair competitive advantages enjoyed by noncompliant businesses.

SB 642 provides another tool in the enforcement toolbox to protect public health, the environment, and the safety of first responders who may have to respond to the accidental release of hazardous materials. Importantly, SB 642 provides local agencies with flexibility to better coordinate their resources to ensure that one agency can step in

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when another may be constrained by limited resources or the pursuit of other criminal cases.

For the above reasons, RCRC respectfully requests your signature on SB 642. Please do not hesitate to contact me at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org or (916) 447-4806 with any questions.

Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY
Senior Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Dave Cortese, Member, California State Senate