



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

March 25, 2024

The Honorable Scott Wilk
Member, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 7140
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 1359 – SUPPORT
As Amended March 18, 2024**

Dear Senator Wilk:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we are pleased to support your Senate Bill 1359 regarding illegal dumping. 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 1359 increases penalties for illegal dumping; makes violation of illegal dumping laws a misdemeanor; and closes a loophole to allow prosecution of those who are engaged in, or allow the illegal dumping of, waste matter upon property where a permit or license for those activities was required by a state or local agency but was not obtained.

Illegal dumping continues to be a serious problem in many parts of the state, especially in unincorporated rural areas. Local governments spend a considerable amount of money each year responding to and cleaning up illegally disposed waste. Illegal dumping is not confined to local government rights-of-way and private lands; increasingly it has become more of a problem on state and federal lands. SB 1359 seeks to address this situation by increasing the penalties for illegal dumping, making those crimes a misdemeanor, and closing loopholes in who can be prosecuted. Existing penalties, which are long overdue for even inflation-related increases since they were last adjusted in 2006, are low enough for violators to consider it cheaper to offend the law than comply with it.

For these reasons, RCRC is pleased to support SB 1359. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org.

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Sincerely,

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

JOHN KENNEDY
Senior Policy Advocate