



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

June 26, 2024

The Honorable Ben Allen  
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 3230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 2346 (Lee) – SUPPORT  
As Amended June 20, 2024**

Dear Senator Allen:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we are pleased to support Assembly Bill 2346 (Lee) regarding organic waste procurement. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those counties.

Assembly Bill 2346 provides additional flexibility for local governments to meet CalRecycle's organic waste procurement requirements. Under California's SB 1383 organic waste recycling regulations, local governments must procure compost, mulch, bioenergy, or renewable gas produced from organic waste based on the number of residents in that jurisdiction. As SB 1383 implementation has progressed, those procurement categories have proved to be too constraining and fail to recognize the diversity of ways in which locals recycle organics and keep those wastes out of the landfill.

AB 2346 allows jurisdictions to claim credit for organic waste procured from on-farm compost operations, vermicomposting operations, smaller-scale community composting facilities, and investments made by jurisdictions to establish or expand the capacity of compostable materials handling operations or community composting operations.

Particularly important for rural jurisdictions, AB 2346 allows local jurisdictions to satisfy procurement obligations by using mulch produced from local tree trimming operations conducted by the jurisdiction or contractor and applied to the jurisdiction's landscape areas or given away to residents. Many rural jurisdictions have been working hard to reduce wildfire risk through community vegetation management projects. Those local governments have worked hard to find ways to beneficially reuse those materials as

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an alternative to open burning; however, success in those programs has made it harder to find ways to use compost in those communities. AB 2346 helps address this issue by keeping organic waste out of landfills while recognizing that local jurisdictions are having to manage many different types of organic waste.

AB 2346 commendably recognizes alternative organics recycling pathways and the tremendous investments locals are making to increase local organic waste recycling. For the above reasons, RCRC supports AB 2346 and respectfully requests your “aye” vote when this measure is heard before your committee.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jkennedy@rcrcnet.org](mailto:jkennedy@rcrcnet.org).

Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY  
Senior Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Alex Lee, Member of the California State Assembly  
Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Brynn Cook, Chief Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Scott Seekatz, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus