

April 8, 2024

The Honorable Alex Lee Member, California State Assembly 1021 O Street, Room 6330 Sacramento, CA 95814

## RE: Assembly Bill 2346 – SUPPORT As Introduced February 12, 2024

Dear Assembly Member Lee:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we are pleased to support your Assembly Bill 2346 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. Specifically, AB 2346 allows jurisdictions to claim credit for organic waste procured from community compost operations, on-farm compost operations, and investments made by jurisdictions to establish or expand the capacity of compostable materials handling operations or community composting operations.

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 commendably recognizes some of those alternative organics recycling pathways and the tremendous investments locals are making to increase local organic waste recycling capacity. As the bill moves forward, we look forward to working with you and CalRecycle to explore other mechanisms and processes to provide even more flexibility to local governments to implement their organic waste diversion programs.

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For the above reasons, RCRC supports your AB 2346. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at <u>jkennedy@rcrcnet.org</u>.

Sincerely,

John Kennedy

JOHN KENNEDY Senior Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Isaac Bryan, 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