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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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March 26, 2020

The Honorable Janice D. Schakowsky, Chair
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED / SUPPORT IF AMENDED – HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 4050 (OMAR) AS INTRODUCED ON JULY 25, 2019 – ZERO WASTE ACT

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **opposes** House of Representatives 4050 (HR 4050), as introduced on July 25, 2019, **unless amended and supports if amended** to include the recommendations in this letter.

If enacted, the proposed legislation would create a \$250 million federal grant program for Fiscal Years 2020 through 2027, giving priority to jurisdictions with zero waste policy while promoting waste prevention initiatives: source reduction, reuse, recycling infrastructure, and market development projects. The bill; however, specifically excludes programs and/or efforts that would recover energy from waste.

According to the California Legislative Analyst's Office, the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery's investments in waste diversion projects have been among the State of California's most cost-effective climate investments, reducing carbon emissions by one-tenth the average cost of Cap & Trade (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund) investments. Converting organic waste to renewable energy and low carbon fuels will also help the country to meet its renewable energy goals and provide climate resilience for local communities by converting local organic waste to local energy supplies. Including energy from waste projects within the recycling/conversion strategy supports bioenergy and recycling projects while reducing landfill waste disposal and helping meet the Short-Lived Climate Pollutant requirements of California Senate Bill 1383 (Lara, 2016).

Therefore, the Task Force **opposes** the proposed legislation **unless amended and supports if amended** to expand the bill's provisions to include conversion technologies for the recovery of energy or fuel from waste.

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Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of Los Angeles and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of 10 million (larger than the population of 42 states in the U.S.). Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective and environmentally sound solid waste management system in Los Angeles County, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the system on a countywide basis. The Task Force membership includes representatives of the League of California Cities-Los Angeles County Division, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, City of Los Angeles, waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **opposes** HR 4050 **unless amended and supports if amended** to include the recommendation in this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and
Mayor, City of Rosemead

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cc: Congresswoman Ilhan Omar
Each Member and Staff of the House Committee on Energy & Commerce
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Sachi A. Hamai, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments
Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management
Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force