



MARK PESTRELLA, CHAIR
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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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June 22, 2020

The Honorable Paul Tonko, Chair
Subcommittee on Environment & Climate Change
of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Tonko:

SUPPORT – HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL 5115 (CARDENAS) AS INTRODUCED ON NOVEMBER 15, 2019 – REALIZING THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND VALUE OF EXPANDING RECYCLING ACT

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is pleased to **support** House of Representatives Bill 5115 (H.R. 5115), the Realizing the Economic Opportunities and Value of Expanding Recycling Act, introduced on November 15, 2019. H.R. 5115 would support and expand recycling infrastructure and recycling programs while diverting municipal solid waste materials from landfills by awarding financial assistance to States and local governments under the Recycling Infrastructure Program.

The bill would importantly allocate up to \$500 Million in matching grants, over five years to state, local, and tribal governments to:

- support recycling infrastructure by expanding or supporting recycling-related technology or infrastructure,
- transition curbside recycling programs to more efficient collection practices,
- enhance curbside and other recycling programs,
- promote public space recycling,
- develop rural recycling systems,
- develop and implement variable rate (“pay-as-you-throw”) funding programs,
- consumer education,
- marketing opportunities for recyclable materials in the U.S., and
- education and training for recycling operators.

This bill would bring much needed funding to materials recovery initiatives to further expand recycling access and collection of recyclable materials to underserved areas, modernize existing technology, utilize innovative technology, enhance curbside recycling and other collection, and reduce contamination of recyclable materials.

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Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939), 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 ten million. 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.

As such, the Task Force **supports** H.R. 5115 as its enactment would provide much needed economic incentives for investment into this critical economic sector. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force 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: U.S. Representative Tony Cardenas
U.S. Representative Larry D. Bucshon
U.S. Representative Greg Stanton
U.S. Representative Susan W. Brooks
U.S. Representative Julia Brownley
Each Member and Staff of Subcommittee on Environment & Climate Change of the
House Committee on Energy and 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