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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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March 28, 2012

TO: Each Member of the
Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation

**SENATE BILL 568 (AMENDED JULY 12, 2011)
POLYSTYRENE FOOD CONTAINERS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) wishes to reiterate its support for Senate Bill 568 (SB 568). This bill would prohibit a food vendor, on and after Jan 1, 2016, from dispensing prepared food to a customer in expanded polystyrene foam (EPS) food containers.

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

If enacted, SB 568 will result in significant litter abatement and cost savings for local agencies. EPS food containers disproportionately contribute in the cost to local government for litter prevention, cleanup, and disposal. In California, 53 jurisdictions have taken action to date restricting the use of EPS in some form. In Los Angeles County, the cities of Calabasas, Malibu, Santa Monica, and West Hollywood have restricted the use of EPS food containers at retail food establishments, while the City of Los Angeles and County of Los Angeles have restricted the use of EPS food containers at municipal operations and municipal-sponsored events.

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SB 568 would also reduce the environmental impact of EPS containers, and stimulate the market for alternative materials. Additionally, the enactment of the bill would provide for establishment of a uniform policy Statewide rather than piecemeal restrictions in different jurisdictions, as well as significantly reduce the instance of one of the most abundant types of litter. Although EPS makes up less than 1% of the waste stream, litter studies have found it makes up as much as 15% of the litter stream. Local governments are facing increasing costs to manage litter, including zero trash Total Maximum Daily Load requirements in our rivers and waterways that may cost billions of dollars to comply with.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147 or MikeMohajer@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,



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

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cc: Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Senator Alan Lowenthal