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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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July 27, 2016

The Honorable Patricia C. Bates
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4048
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Dear Senator Bates:

**SUPPORT – SENATE BILL 423 (AMENDED JUNE 30, 2016)
CONSUMER PRODUCT WASTE: MANAGEMENT**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is pleased to **support** your Senate Bill 423 (SB 423), as amended June 30, 2016, but also recommends the bill be further amended as discussed herewith. If enacted, this bill would convene a Retail Waste Working Group to consider and provide recommendations for the efficient management of consumer product wastes, including household hazardous waste (HHW), and to identify efficient mechanisms for product waste source reduction.

The Task Force commends SB 423's proposed assembling of a working group of relevant participants to partake in a collective management strategy, including large and small retail entities, nongovernment organizations, district attorneys, and pertinent State agencies. However, we would also strongly recommend the bill be amended to include a more meaningful role for local government officials and entities to play, as it is their responsibility to serve as the initial front line of waste collection and its ultimate final management.

The Task Force also takes note of the opportunity SB 423 could potentially wield the State to expand and further promote Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in the management of discarded consumer products, notably packaging and HHW. As highlighted in the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery's (CalRecycle) 2015 AB 341 Report to the Legislature, which provided a long-term strategy for achieving and sustaining the State's 75 Percent Initiative for landfill diversion, EPR provides a framework to support the highest and best use of many disposed materials. Since 2008, the Task Force has been an active supporter of EPR policies in order to lessen the financial burden placed on local governments' programs while providing their residents with increased convenient options to properly dispose of unwanted product waste. Our continued support is based on the notion that local governments cannot manage the entirety of these wastes on their own and that industry

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has an appropriate role in their management, based on their expertise and their accessibility to consumers through retailers who sell their products. Thus, it is recommended that the bill mention the importance of EPR for the management of HHW.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939 [AB 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 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 stated for the reasons provided, the Task Force **supports** SB 423, as amended June 30, 2016, and respectfully recommends the bill be amended to address the concerns discussed herewith. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, 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
Council Member, City of Rosemead

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cc: Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez, Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Each Member of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Assembly Appropriations Committee Consultant, Jennifer Galehouse
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division
Each member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
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 Integrated Waste Management Task Force