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LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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March 16, 2017

The Honorable Jim Beall, Chair  
Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing  
State Capitol, Room 2209  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Beall:

### **SUPPORT SENATE BILL 53 (HUESO) NATURAL GAS VEHICLES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is pleased to **support** Senate Bill 53 (SB 53), as introduced December 5, 2016. If enacted, SB 53 would adopt a vehicle weight exemption for natural gas vehicles up to 2,000 pounds as specified in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015.

The FAST Act allows natural gas vehicles to exceed federal weight limits by up to 2,000 pounds but only applies to federal interstate highways. The exemption only becomes effective when states adopt the same exemption for state highways and local roads. As of 2016, 13 States have already raised their weight limit for natural gas vehicles.

Natural gas vehicles generate significantly less greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions than traditional gasoline or diesel-powered vehicles. This makes them an ideal resource to help the State reach its GHG emissions reduction targets. However, natural gas fuel systems can weigh up to roughly 2,000 pounds more than diesel fuel systems; thus, vehicles running on natural gas are forced to carry less payload under the current state weight restrictions. A reduction in the payload capacity creates a strong disincentive to switch to a natural gas vehicle and a burden for businesses that must increase the number of trips to carry the same payload. This bill would "level the playing field" for natural gas powered vehicles by allowing them to carry the same amount of payload, hence, incentivizing the transition from diesel to natural gas. Increasing the number of natural gas vehicles on the road will improve air pollution and climate pollutants, and further advance the use of renewable and low carbon fuels.

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

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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 **supports** SB 53. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at [MikeMohajer@yahoo.com](mailto: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: Senator Ben Hueso  
Each Member of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing  
Committee Chief Consultant, Randy Chinn  
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 Integrated Waste Management Task Force