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California Resource Recovery Association

June 10, 2009

Senator Joe Simitian, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
VIA FAX: (916) 322-3519

RE: AB 1329 (Brownley) Polyvinyl Chloride Packaging Ban – Support

Dear Senator Simitian,

CRRA respectfully urges your support of Assembly Bill 1329 by Julia Brownley, which will prohibit the distribution of certain polyvinyl chloride (PVC) packaging containers after 2014. PVC packaging containers are an impediment to growing California's recycling stream because they contaminate the recycling of other, non-toxic, more abundant plastic resin types. PVC is also a public health threat in its production and as solid waste and litter.

Nearly indistinguishable from recyclable, non-toxic PET bottles and containers, studies have concluded that just 0.001% PVC contamination in a shipment of PET can render the product as unusable. CRRA can attest to the fact that PVC contamination is a serious impediment to the expansion of PET recycling in California.

PVC presents a significant threat to health, in its production and as packaging, solid waste and litter. PVC production releases toxic chemicals including dioxins and chlorine gas. PVC packaging contains threatening additives including phthalates, Lead, and Cadmium. The Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse recently found that 61% of PVC products tested contained Lead or Cadmium, both of which are toxic in even small amounts and are especially dangerous to children.

Recently, several high-profile corporations, including Sears, Target and Wal-Mart, announced they were ending or phasing out the distribution of PVC packaging. While we applaud these efforts, the demonstrated threat to public health demands that we not rely on a voluntary phase out.

Please support AB 1329 with a "Yes" vote when it is heard in committee.

Sincerely,

J. Muir

Julie Muir
President, CRRA

Cc: Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee

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