



June 20, 2018

Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi
 Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
 1020 N St, Room 164
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1335 (Allen) – Sustainable Take-Out Food Packaging for State Parks, Beaches, and Facilities - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Muratsuchi,

The undersigned organizations are in strong support of Senator Allen’s SB 1335, which would create a pathway for the State of California to lead the way in executing sustainable purchasing practices and taking action to meet statutory goals to significantly reduce waste sent to landfills.

SB 1335 would require all food service packaging provided at California state parks, beaches, and facilities to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable by 2021. The bill would ensure that food service vendors have easy access to information about acceptable materials by requiring CalRecycle to publish a public list of all acceptable material types on its website.

Disposable plastic food service packaging makes up a disproportionately large share of non-recyclable waste and

continues to grow at an unsustainable rate. Food service packaging has been the second most common category of litter (behind only tobacco products) found during California Coastal Clean-Up days since record keeping began in 1989. With reusable, recyclable, and compostable alternatives easily available and affordable, there is no reason to continue using materials like Styrofoam that are destined to pile up in our landfills and pollute our public spaces.

Disposable food service packaging that fails to be captured for recycling or composting often makes its way into the natural environment. Once there, plastic packaging breaks up into microplastics that are ingested by fish and other marine life. A recent study by UC Davis surveying fish and shellfish sold at local fish markets found that a quarter of fish and a third of shellfish intended for human consumption contained microplastics. These small plastic pieces have gone beyond entering our food chain, as they have made their way into the worldwide supply of drinking water. A 2017 study by Orb Media and the University of Minnesota School of Public Health found microplastics in 80% of human drinking water all around the world – from New York to New Delhi.

State parks and beaches are the natural leaders to begin the transition to sustainable packaging at the state level as these public spaces are at the forefront of the battle against pollution, particularly plastic pollution. The transition to sustainable packaging at state facilities would provide an opportunity for the state to lead by example and exemplify the feasibility of sustainable food service packaging policies.

Stemming the stream of non-sustainable food service packaging is a necessary step in beginning to address the global environmental health crisis of plastic pollution and assist California in meeting its goal of diverting 75% of waste from landfills by 2020. Thus, the undersigned organizations urge your “AYE” vote on SB 1335 when it is heard in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on June 25, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly McBee with Californians Against Waste at (916) 443-5422.

Respectfully,

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cc: Senator Ben Allen
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Elizabeth MacMillan, Principal Consultant, Assembly Natural Resources Committee