



June 21, 2019

Chair Ben Allen, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
 State Capitol, Room 2205
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Emails: Mimi.Holtkamp@sen.ca.gov; Scott.Seekatz@sen.ca.gov

Re: AB 1509 (Mullin & Berman) Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Prevention Act – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Allen:

On behalf of our organizations and members throughout California, we strongly support AB 1509 as amended May 1, 2019, which would create a recycling program for lithium-ion batteries, including both loose batteries as well as ones embedded in products. Reducing the number of

improperly disposed of Li-ion batteries entering the waste stream, would help protect the workers and infrastructure of material recovery facilities (MRFs), transfer stations, collection trucks, and landfills from catastrophic fires.

Lithium-ion batteries have increased multifold in our everyday items, from cell phones and laptops, to power tools and children's toys. According to Call2Recycle, California consumes 64 million Lithium-ion batteries every year, of which 75-92% are improperly disposed of. The high energy density of these batteries makes them extremely dangerous when mishandled, creating very serious fire, health, and safety hazards. As these batteries, and products containing these batteries, enter the waste stream, they have the potential to cause disastrous fires and pose a serious threat to processing facilities as well as their workers. In fact, according to Fire Rover, over 1,700 fires at MRFs in the US and Canada are caused by these batteries annually. This number is likely a low estimate, as many smaller fires go underreported, and the number of li-ion batteries consumed grows multifold every year.

AB 1509 would help reduce the fire and safety risk these batteries pose by ensuring their proper disposal. Manufacturers and retailers must take more responsibility for the products they create if we are going to protect our workers, communities, and waste management infrastructure from battery-related fires.

For these reasons we **SUPPORT AB 1509.**

Sincerely,

Joe La Mariana



Executive Director
Rethink Waste

Doug Kobold



Executive Director
California Product Stewardship Council

Nick Lapis



Director of Advocacy
Californians Against Waste

Heidi Sanborn



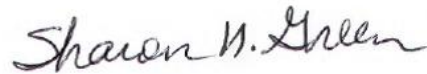
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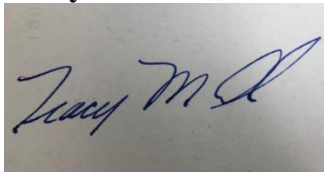
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Veronica Pardo



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Thomas E. Novotny MD MPH DSc (Hon)



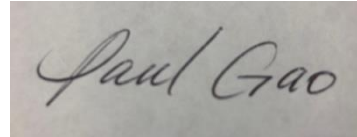
Professor Emeritus, Public Health, San
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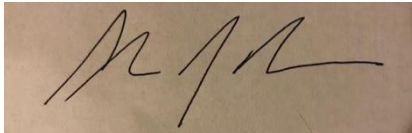
City Manager
City of Thousand Oaks

Paul Y. Gao



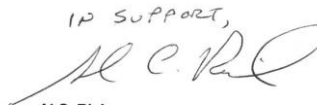
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12 SUPPORT,


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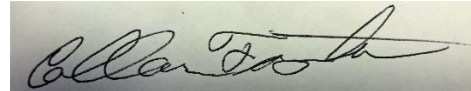
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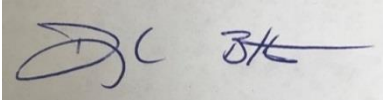
Alameda County Supervisor, District 4
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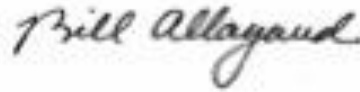
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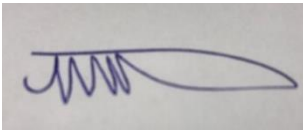
President
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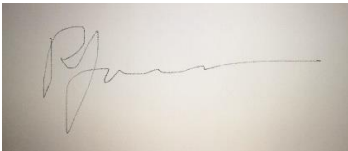
Director, Waste & Recycling Project
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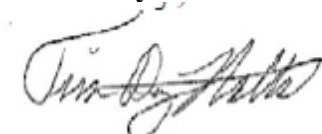
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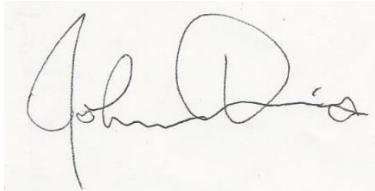
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