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# California Resource Recovery Association

April 12, 2010

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

## Re: SB 1241 (Wolk) - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Simitian,

Please vote "Yes" on Senate Bill 1241 (Wolk) when it is heard in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

SB 1241 would create a significant incentive for sustainable agriculture by allowing the California Department of Food and Agriculture to offer grants for practices that reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, including the increased production and use of compost in agriculture.

The wide spread use of compost is a critical opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for agriculture. Compost use has been identified as a key GHG-reduction strategy in the AB 32 Scoping Plan and in the findings of the Climate Action Team and the Economic and Technology Advancement Advisory Committee. Compost use in agriculture significantly reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, which are both carbon-intensive in their production and emit large quantities of greenhouse gases in their application. Compost use also reduces agricultural water demand since crops grown in compost-rich soil require up to 70% less irrigation due to the increased infiltration and storage capacity of root systems and the reduction of water runoff, evaporation, and water usage by weeds. Finally, compost application provides nutrient-rich soils, which multiple studies have shown results in greater carbon storage in crop biomass, as well as increased carbon sequestration in soils.

Vast quantities of organic materials that are suitable as feedstock for compost production are currently being disposed of in California landfills, resulting in significant emissions of methane and other GHG emissions from landfills. SB 1241 would support the State's goal to reduce the amount of organic materials sent to landfills by 50 percent by 2020 (CalRecycle Strategic Directive 6.1). This bill also aligns with the AB 32 Scoping Plan which calls for the state to "provide direct incentives for the use of compost in agriculture".

SB 1241 represents a significant opportunity to increase the manifold benefits of compost production and its wide spread use, which are critical to California's climate protection goals. Please vote "Yes" on SB 1241 when it is heard in the Environmental Quality Committee.

Sincerely,

*J. Muir*

Julie Muir  
President

CC: Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Senator Lois Wolk