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California Resource Recovery Association

April 15, 2010

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

RE: SB 1454 (DeSaulnier) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Simitian,

Please vote "Yes" on Senate Bill 1454 (DeSaulnier) when it is heard in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

This bill would prohibit manufacturers from making false and misleading claims about the biodegradability or compostability of their products. False claims such as "biodegradability" and "degradability" may mislead to consumers to believe that packaging so labeled is less harmful to the environment if improperly disposed.

A plastic product's ability to biodegrade is a function of its physical and chemical composition, as well as the environmental to which it is subject. Studies show that even plastic designed to compost does not biodegrade in the "natural" environment, and can be equally harmful to wildlife as conventional plastics. Accordingly, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) does not have standard specifications for the terms "biodegradable" or "degradable".

SB 1454 is needed to prohibit manufacturers from labeling their products as "biodegradable". It would require such products to meet ASTM standards for accepted attributes such as compostability (ASTM standard specification D-6400).

Consumers deserve reliable and standard labeling for the end-of-life attribute of these products, and manufacturers that are already making truthful claims about the end-of-life attributes of their products deserve a fair marketplace.

Please support SB 1454.

Sincerely,

J. Muir

Julie Muir
President

CC: Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Senator Mark DeSaulnier