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California Resource Recovery Association

April 4, 2011

Honorable Julia Brownley
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0041
Fax: 916-319-2141

Re: AB 298 (Brownley) Reusable Shopping Bags – Support

Dear Assembly Member Brownley:

The California Resource Recovery Association, founded in 1974, is California's statewide recycling association. It is the oldest and one of the largest non-profit recycling organizations in the United States. CRRA is dedicated to achieving environmental sustainability in and beyond California through Zero Waste strategies including product stewardship, waste prevention, reuse, recycling and composting. CRRA advances local, regional and state wide waste reduction efforts which result in critical environmental and climate protection outcomes. CRRA's more than 500 members represent all aspects of California's reduce-reuse-recycle-compost economy. Our members work for over 100 cities, counties and municipal districts, as well as hauling companies, material processors, non-profit organizations, state agencies, and allied professionals.

By prohibiting manufacturers from selling or distributing reusable bags unless they are made from a material that can be cleaned or disinfected, and that do not contain lead, cadmium or other heavy metal in toxic amounts, AB 298 would eliminate real and perceived barriers to the increased use of reusable shopping bags.

Expanding the use of safe, durable, reusable shopping bags is an important component to reducing the consumption of single-use shopping bags, and reducing the environmental impacts of single-use shopping bags.

CRRA enthusiastically supports AB 298.

J. Muir

Julie Muir
President, CRRA