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California Resource Recovery Association

March 28, 2011

Honorable Wesley Chesbro, Chair
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
1020 N Street Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: 916-319-2192

Re: AB 341 (Chesbro) Solid Waste Diversion – Support

Dear Assembly Member Chesbro:

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.

AB 341 is the logical next step in California's leading role to reverse a landfill disposal – based system with one that returns discarded resources to the value-added economy, and replaces spent landfill capacity with green jobs. As the primary actors in California's waste diversion and resource recovery advancements since AB 939 (California's landmark 1989 recycling act) and well before, CRRA members are well qualified to endorse the 75% waste diversion goal put forth in AB 341.

Likewise, the provisions in AB 341 for mandatory recycling for the commercial and multi-family dwelling sectors are timely and logical progressions that build upon California's waste diversion and recycling achievements to date. Even as we have built a state-wide residential and drop-off recycling infrastructure that is the envy of the nation, the commercial and multi-family sectors remain disproportionately under served. As a number of California communities which have enacted local mandatory recycling ordinances (including San Diego, San Francisco, Sacramento, Fresno and many others) are demonstrating, mandatory recycling is an effective remedy for the disparity in recycling performance in these sectors.

While we support a state wide requirement for mandatory commercial recycling, it is critical that local communities can implement mandatory recycling programs that meet their unique conditions and needs. Should AB 341 be enacted, CRRA looks forward to working with the appropriate agency to ensure just that.

CRRA enthusiastically supports AB 341.

J. Muir

Julie Muir
President, CRRA

Cc: Members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee