



736 F Street
Arcata, CA 95521

City Manager
(707) 822-5953

Police
822-2428

Recreation
822-7091

Community Development
822-5955

Finance
822-5951

Transportation
822-3775

Environmental Services
Streets/Utilities
822-5957

Environmental Services
Community Services
822-8184

Engineering
& Building
825-2128

February 11, 2020

The Honorable Ben Allen
California State Senate
State Capitol Building, Room 4076
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 54 (Allen) California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act.
Notice of SUPPORT *(As Amended 9/10/19)*

Dear Senator Allen:

The City of Arcata is pleased to **support** SB 54 (Allen), the California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act. This bill directs the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to adopt regulations before January 1, 2024 that require producers, which includes the people who manufacture single-use packaging or priority single-use products, to achieve a 75 percent reduction of waste generated from single-use packaging and priority single-use plastic products in the California market by 2030.

SB 54 also requires CalRecycle, by January 1, 2023 and before the adoption of regulations, to finalize an implementation plan that will be comprised of extensive outreach with stakeholders, including local governments. This will give local governments a voice in the creation of the forthcoming regulations to address potential implementation challenges.

Another important component of SB 54 is that it seeks to address the lack of recycling markets in California. California's solid waste and recycling systems are facing serious challenges. For decades, California sold the majority of its recyclable materials to China. However, over the last several years, China banned the importation of certain recyclables through the adoption of its "National Sword" policy, and in 2018 announced its intent to ban all imports of recyclable materials by 2020. International markets, such as China, have been a critical component to California's recycling infrastructure. The combination of international policies has nearly collapsed the recyclable materials market in California. The recyclable materials once shipped overseas are piling up with nowhere to go.

SB 54 will help to reduce the economic impact of disposing unnecessary single-use plastics. Currently, residents and business owners in the City of Arcata spend over 3.6 million dollars annually on garbage and recycling services.

Cities, like ours, have dedicated significant time and resources to develop and implement their recycling programs, and want to ensure city recycling programs continue to be successful. This bill is a step in the right direction to reduce the amount of single-use plastics, increase the availability of recyclable materials, and help develop in-state recycling markets.

For these reasons, the City of Arcata **supports** SB 54.

Sincerely,



Michael Winkler, Mayor
City of Arcata

cc:

Senator Mike McGuire, Senator.McGuire@senate.ca.gov & VIA FAX: (916) 651-4902

Congressman Jared Huffman, John.Driscoll@mail.house.gov

Assembly Member Jim Wood, VIA FAX: (707) 445-6607 & (916) 319-2102

Sara Sanders, League Regional Public Affairs Manager, sanders@cacities.org

Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org