



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

August 23, 2017

The Honorable Cristina Garcia
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 2013
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 458 (Wiener) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Garcia:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we offer our support for Senate Bill 458, authored by Senator Scott Wiener, which would permit the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to establish several mobile recycling pilot projects.

RCRC is an association of thirty-five rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties. In addition, twenty-three member counties have formed the Rural Counties' Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority (ESJPA) to provide assistance to solid waste managers in rural counties.

As you know, with the recent closure of over one-fifth of the certified recycling centers, "convenient" beverage container redemption opportunities for many Californians does not exist, especially in rural areas. Since these closures, not only do many residents not have the opportunity to redeem their refunds, but the beverage container recycling rates have decreased. While stakeholders have been working to reform the California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act, we question whether a long-term sustainable fix will be enacted this legislative year. We are hopeful for a legislative short-term fix to encourage the re-siting of many of the closed facilities this year. SB 458 offers a trial alternative mechanism to relieve the unserved zones and provide additional redemption opportunities through mobile recycling programs.

SB 458 would, until July 1, 2020, direct CalRecycle to authorize up to five limited-term mobile recycling pilot projects that are designed to improve redemption opportunities in unserved convenience zones. CalRecycle would decide which jurisdictions would receive pilot program authorization through an application process

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weighing factors such as the number of convenience zones served, effects on existing recycling operations, and other relevant criteria. In light of recent and widespread recycling center closures, RCRC believes it is imperative to enlarge the accessibility of recycling centers to unserved zones.

For the above reasons, RCRC respectfully requests your 'Aye' vote when SB 458 is heard before your Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Pitto". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "M".

MARY PITTO
Regulatory Affairs Advocate

cc: The Honorable Scott Wiener, Member of the State Senate
Members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Consultant, Assembly Natural Resources Committee