



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

August 23, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 2374 (Bauer-Kahan) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 2374 (Bauer-Kahan) regarding illegal dumping. RCRC is an association of thirty-nine rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each member county.

Illegal dumping continues to be a serious problem in many parts of the state, especially in unincorporated rural areas. Local governments spend a considerable amount of money each year responding to and cleaning up illegally disposed waste.

AB 2374 seeks to address this problem by increasing penalties for the illegal dumping of commercial quantities (over one cubic yard) of waste. Increasing the maximum fine for illegal dumping of commercial quantities of waste reflects the growing costs of illegal dumping on our society. These changes are necessary because inflation has effectively decreased the penalty since it was last adjusted in 2004. The \$3,000 penalty cap for a first violation in 2004 is equivalent to roughly \$4,500 today.

Just as importantly, AB 2374 requires the violator to remove, or pay for the cost of removing, the waste. Given the considerable resources that local governments and the state devote to cleaning up illegal dump sites, it just makes sense to require the violator to pay to remediate the problem instead of forcing taxpayers to foot the bill.

To illustrate the problem, we have included two images of what is becoming an all too familiar problem in our communities – large quantities and bulky waste improperly discarded on the roadside in rural areas.

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Finally, AB 2374 clarifies that increased penalties for dumping of “commercial quantities” of waste apply when the perpetrator dumps waste on someone else’s residence. This is an important clarification to protect victims and deter spite dumping.

For the above reasons, RCRC respectfully requests your signature on AB 2374. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [jkennedy@rcrcnet.org](mailto:jkennedy@rcrcnet.org) or (916) 447-4806 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John Kennedy in blue ink.

JOHN KENNEDY  
Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Member of the State Assembly