



April 8, 2021

The Honorable Jim Wood  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 6005  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1311 - SUPPORT  
As Amended April 7, 2021**

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am pleased to support your Assembly Bill 1311 regarding beverage container recycling. RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties and our Board of Directors is comprised of an elected supervisor from each member county.

With the closure of many certified recycling centers, “convenient” beverage container redemption opportunities do not exist for many Californians. According to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), three counties have NO recycling centers, seven counties have only a single recycling center, and six counties only have two recycling centers. In five counties, each recycling center serves residents living in an area of over 3,000 square miles. Without convenient redemption opportunities, the Beverage Container Recycling Program (Program) can easily become a regressive tax that disproportionately impacts lower-income Californians. These concerns are even more acute during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic as Californians are struggling to make ends meet.

AB 1311 makes several changes to improve the Program by increasing consumer access to redemption opportunities. In particular, AB 1311 provides CalRecycle with greater flexibility to adjust recycling center operating hours and allow appointment-based recycling opportunities to accommodate local needs. Additionally, AB 1311 helps to reduce barriers to the operation of bag-drop recycling centers by authorizing them to provide electronic payments to customers who choose to use those programs. Finally, the bill provides retailers with greater flexibility in where they redeem consumer beverage containers and exempts dealers who redeem consumer beverage containers from daily load limits that would otherwise apply.

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | [www.rcrcnet.org](http://www.rcrcnet.org) | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154

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The Beverage Container Recycling Act is complex and incredibly prescriptive and affords CalRecycle with little of the flexibility that is needed to meet changing needs brought about by local conditions and market forces. Taken as a whole, the changes proposed in AB 1311 are commonsense solutions to help consumers get their CRV deposits back.

While we strongly support the bill as currently drafted, we suggest that it explore other commonsense and incremental improvements to the Program as it moves forward to provide CalRecycle the flexibility needed to respond to other local needs and market conditions. In particular, we suggest:

- Authorizing CalRecycle to increase processing and handling payments to recycling centers in rural and underserved areas to account for the higher costs of recycling and transportation in those areas.
- Temporarily increase daily load limits for consumers during the COVID-19 pandemic and in rural areas where longer distances to recycling centers necessitate fewer trips with larger quantities of containers.
- Use penalty funds and retailer Public Resources Code Section 14571.6 in-lieu payments to assist in the siting and operation of recycling centers in rural and underserved areas.

For the reasons stated above, we are pleased to support your AB 1311. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding RCRC's recommendations.

Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY  
Legislative Advocate

cc: Members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Elizabeth MacMillan, Consultant, Assembly Natural Resources Committee



April 21, 2021

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1311 (Wood) - SUPPORT  
As Amended April 7, 2021**

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am pleased to support Assembly Bill 1311, authored by Assembly Member Jim Wood, regarding beverage container recycling. RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties and our Board of Directors is comprised of an elected supervisor from each member county.

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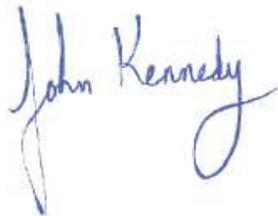
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For the above reasons, RCRC respectfully requests your 'Aye' vote when this measure is heard before your Committee. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding RCRC's recommendations.

Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY  
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Jim Wood, Member of the State Assembly  
Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee



June 22, 2021

The Honorable Benjamin Allen  
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
State Capitol, Room 4076  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1311 (Wood) - SUPPORT  
As Amended April 7, 2021**

Dear Senator Allen:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am pleased to support Assembly Bill 1311, authored by Assembly Member Jim Wood, regarding beverage container recycling. RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties and our Board of Directors is comprised of an elected supervisor from each member county.

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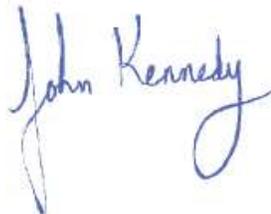
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Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY  
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Jim Wood, Member of the State Assembly  
Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Scott Seekatz, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus