



September 10, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1311 (Wood) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 1311. AB 1311, authored by Assembly Member Jim Wood, addresses 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 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. Of greatest interest, AB 1311 provides CalRecycle with greater flexibility to adjust recycling center operating hours and allow appointment-based recycling opportunities to accommodate local needs.

The Beverage Container Recycling Act is complex and incredibly prescriptive; it 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 California Refund Value deposits back.

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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For the above reasons, RCRC respectfully requests signature on AB 1311.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Mary-Ann Warmerdam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MARY-ANN WARMERDAM  
Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs

cc: The Honorable Jim Wood, Member of the State Assembly