



September 3, 2021

The Honorable John Laird
Member, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4040
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 619 (Laird) – REMOVAL OF SUPPORT
As Amended September 3, 2021**

Dear Senator Laird:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we regret to inform you that we must remove our support for Senate Bill 619 regarding organic waste recycling. RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each member county.

RCRC strongly supported SB 619 to provide flexibility to local jurisdictions to implement new organic waste recycling regulations. We were very pleased to see you include language on August 30th that would have greatly assisted rural jurisdictions in their efforts. In particular, SB 619 would have: 1) Established a residential de minimis waiver process; and, 2) Required generators to self-haul in lieu of the local jurisdiction providing collection service where the jurisdiction finds, based on substantial evidence, that it would be exceptionally difficult, impractical, or impossible to provide mandatory organic waste collection services because of safety and access issues.

We were especially interested in these provisions because CalRecycle's new organic waste regulations are inflexible in their requirement for local jurisdictions to provide collection service to all residents, despite the fact that some areas are inaccessible to solid waste collection trucks. We regret that an agreement could not be reached between CalRecycle and stakeholders to resolve ambiguity in the August 30th amendments that could have been interpreted to broaden CalRecycle's authority beyond the reach of the existing regulations. We fear that some of our jurisdictions will be unable to comply with this rigid mandate without the relief that SB 619 would have afforded.

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The Honorable John Laird
Senate Bill 619
September 3, 2021
Page 2

We recognize that the September 3rd amendment removing Section 2 of SB 619 do not reflect a desire by the Legislature to deny such relief to rural jurisdictions and it should not be interpreted as such. Instead, we believe that Section 2 was removed because there was an inability to resolve issues with ambiguous construction and insufficient time to reach an agreeable solution between the Administration and stakeholders.

While we regret that we must remove our support for SB 619, we appreciate your efforts on this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org or (916) 447-4806 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "J" and "K".

JOHN KENNEDY
Legislative Advocate

cc: Members of the California State Assembly
The Honorable Luz Rivas, Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Elizabeth MacMillan, Consultant, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Kirstin Kolpitcke, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
The Honorable Benjamin Allen, Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Genevieve Wong, Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Scott Seekatz, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus