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LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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June 8, 2011

The Honorable Joe Simitian, Chair  
Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
State Capitol Room 2205  
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001

Dear Senator Simitian:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1178 (AMENDED MAY 10, 2011)**  
**SOLID WASTE: PLACE OF ORIGIN**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **opposes** Assembly Bill 1178 (AB 1178), which, with specified exceptions, would prohibit a city or county from restricting or limiting the importation of solid waste into that city or county based on the place of origin.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939 [AB 939], as amended), the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of Los Angeles and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of ten million. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated, cost-effective, and environmentally sound solid waste management system in Los Angeles County, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the system on a countywide basis. The Task Force membership includes representatives of the League of California Cities-Los Angeles County Division, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, City of Los Angeles, waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

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The Task Force is strongly opposed to this bill's proposed legislative findings and declarations that state restrictions or limits on the importation of solid waste based on the place of origin are "not aspects of solid waste handling subject to local government determination because they unreasonably limit the disposal of solid waste," and furthermore are "an obstacle to, and conflict with, statewide and regional policies to ensure adequate and appropriate capacity for solid waste disposal." The impacts of solid waste disposal facilities are most acute at the local level, and as a result, it is crucial for local governments to have the authority to protect the quality of life of their residents by placing reasonable constraints on the flow of waste.

Furthermore, the Task Force is concerned with the bill's language, which, according to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee analysis, "could create unintended consequences by imposing a stricter restriction on local government than is necessary to address the Measure E issue," a reference to the impetus of the bill being a desire to overturn local Measure E in Solano County and potentially having staggering Statewide consequences.

Local governments have established permitting requirements/conditions and/or watershed restrictions on publically and privately owned disposal facilities for a variety of reasons including preserving local or in-county disposal capacities, reducing traffic impacts on communities, and other site-specific factors that are to avoid the creation of nuisances in the best interest of local governments and their constituents. The discretion granted to local governments in establishing boundaries for purposes of controlling the flow of solid waste, on a case-by-case basis, has provided an avenue to effectively advance local interests as well as enhancing public health and safety. The amended bill, while extolling solid waste disposal as a state-level responsibility, in effect gives disposal discretion solely to privately owned solid waste facility operators and solid waste haulers whose primary priority is generally established by economic factors.

Despite recent amendments that carve out limited exceptions, the proposed bill would hinder solid waste management planning activities that protect public health and safety. This bill goes against the will of California voters, interferes with judicial matters, and usurps local government autonomy Statewide in an attempt to overturn a local decision impacting only one facility in Solano County.

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For the reasons mentioned above, the Task Force **opposes** AB 1178 as amended on May 10, 2011. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and  
Council Member, City of Rosemead

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cc: Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg  
Assemblymember Gilbert Cedillo  
Assemblymember Fiona Ma  
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation  
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors  
Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles  
California State Association of Counties  
League of California Cities  
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division  
Southern California Association of Governments  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
San Fernando Valley Council of Governments  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
Westside Cities Council of Governments  
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force