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LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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June 14, 2011

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

Dear Senator Simitian:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 712 (AMENDED MARCH 31, 2011)  
RECYCLING: BEVERAGE CONTAINERS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) has reviewed Assembly Bill 712 (AB 712) and **opposes** this bill. This bill would prohibit the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) from providing recycling funds to a jurisdiction that prevents the siting or operation of a certified recycling center at a supermarket site.

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 the governmental agencies.

AB 712, if enacted, would prohibit CalRecycle from providing any Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act (Bottle Bill) funds to a city, county, or city and county that prevents the siting or operation of a certified recycling center at a supermarket site. The Bottle Bill specifies that there must be one certified recycling center in each "convenience zone," which is typically a half-mile radius circle around a "dealer," e.g. supermarket, which accepts beverage containers for recycling and remits the CRV refund to consumers. If there is no certified recycler in a convenience zone, the "dealer" is responsible for taking back containers.

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This bill proposes to infringe upon local land-use autonomy without any provisions for local conditions and circumstances that may prevent the siting of a recycling center at a supermarket. Rather than retain funds collected from local residents at the State level that are intended to encourage the collection of additional recyclable beverage containers, the State should be ramping up efforts to develop additional markets for these collected recyclable materials within the State. Additionally, the State should consider the establishment of minimum siting criteria for recycling facilities so that they do not become a nuisance or blight on the community. Take back recycling facilities currently have very minimal oversight and are not required to report the end markets where the collected materials are sent or the total volume of materials processed, and too often reports have emerged regarding fraud and other violations of existing reporting requirements for these facilities.

While the Task Force supports the expansion of convenient recycling opportunities for consumers, we are opposed to legislation that infringes upon local land use decision-making authority. Therefore, the Task Force **opposes** AB 712. If 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 Das Williams  
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
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  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force