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LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

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March 25, 2016

The Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2725 (Chiu) – Food manufacturers: food facilities: labels – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wood,

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) is the world's largest association of solid waste professionals (over 8,000 members). SWANA's California chapters represent more than 900 members. SWANA is committed to advancing the practice of environmentally- and economically-sound management of municipal solid waste. SWANA's California Legislative Task Force (LTF) is responsible for representing the California Chapters on legislative and regulatory issues.

SWANA is pleased to **SUPPORT AB 2725**, which will create standard, statewide guidelines for food date labels that are accurate and relate to freshness and safety. Specifically, this bill will standardize the language of date labels on food to provide a foundation for education consumers on the meaning of the labels.

A shocking 40% of food in the United States never gets eaten. This discarded food is not only a significant waste of natural resources, but also a drain on our economy, costing consumers and industry \$162 billion each year nationally. Food is the single most prevalent item in California's waste stream, with over 5.5 million tons of food discarded every year throughout the state.

Surveys show that a vast majority of consumers discard food prematurely due to misinterpreting food date labels. Inconsistent and unclear food labeling contribute to unnecessary food waste as well. Improving date labeling policies and practices can decrease consumer confusion, which will not only reduce food waste, but also improve food safety.

AB 2725 will provide measurable environmental and economic benefits. For these reasons and more, SWANA is pleased to **SUPPORT AB 2725**. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jason Schmelzer
SWANA Legislative Advocate

Cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Health Committee