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April 21, 2016

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 970 (Leyva) – Organic food waste diversion – SUPPORT IN CONCEPT

Dear Chair Lara,

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 SB 970, as amended on March 28, 2016, in concept**, which would require that by June 1, 2017, CalRecycle, in consultation with the State Air Resources Board and the State Water Resources Control Board, develop a pilot demonstration program to award matching funding for cost-effective and efficient integrated food waste diversion projects at existing wastewater treatment facilities (WWTF).

Regional wastewater agencies are uniquely positioned to develop regional food waste programs. A recent survey conducted at the request of the Administration demonstrates that wastewater agencies using existing digestion capacity can handle 75% or more of the food waste that needs to be diverted from landfills. Regional programs that partner with local waste haulers and utilize existing facilities and digestion capacities are the most efficient and cost-effective option. Additionally, cooperative regional programs will ensure that the state maximizes resource recovery and reuse by encouraging energy and transportation fuel production with the diverted waste streams that can provide additional important local environmental benefits.

SB 970 will provide local jurisdictions with the additional resources necessary to develop efficient organic waste diversion projects on a regional scale. This bill will help California achieve its waste diversion and short-lived climate pollutants reduction goals. For these reasons and more, SWANA is pleased to **SUPPORT SB 970 in concept**. Thank you for your consideration of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Jason Schmelzer
SWANA Legislative Advocate

Cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Connie Leyva, 20th Senate District