



August 7, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1219 (Eggman) California Good Samaritan Food Donation Act. – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Lara,

On behalf of the California Chapters of the Solid Waste Association of North America's (SWANA) Legislative Task Force (LTF), I am pleased to write to you in **SUPPORT** of **AB 1219 (Eggman)**, which would help the state achieve its diversion goals and reduce wasteful disposal of edible food.

SWANA is the world's largest association of solid waste professionals (7,700 members). SWANA's California chapters represent more than 900 members. SWANA represents much of the publicly-owned and –operated solid waste management infrastructure in the state and the local governments responsible for implementing waste diversion and recycling programs. The LTF is responsible for representing the California Chapters on legislative and regulatory issues. SWANA is committed to advancing the practice of environmentally- and economically-sound management of municipal solid waste.

Existing California law protects good faith food donors from civil and criminal liability. Still, edible food is too often discarded, and manufacturers, restaurants, and retailers have expressed liability concerns related to food donation. According to the author's office, food insecurity affects one in every eight Californians, including one in four children. Further, food is the most prevalent item in the state's waste stream, with over 5.5 million tons of food annually disposed in landfill. Combined with other organic waste, uneaten food contributes to approximately 20% of the state's methane emissions.

AB 1219 (Eggman) will explicitly state that donations of past-date food are subject to liability protection. Additionally, this bill will expand protection to nonprofits and their donors when they sell or charge for food, and provide liability protection for donations made directly to end-users. Environmental Health Officers will be required to promote the donation of edible food for human consumption to increase education and awareness.

In addition to making use of edible food for Californians in need, this bill will help the state progress towards its ambitious 2020 goals of 75% overall waste diversion and a reduction in organic waste disposal by 50% from 2014 levels. For these reasons and more, SWANA is pleased to **SUPPORT AB 1219 (Eggman)**. Thank you for your consideration of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Jason Schmelzer
Partner
Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.

Cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Susan Eggman, 13th Assembly District

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES

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