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April 10, 2018

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 2179
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 3178 (Rubio) Integrated waste management plans: source reduction and recycling element: diversion requirement – SUPPORT IN CONCEPT

Dear Chair Muratsuchi,

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 to **SUPPORT AB 3178 (Rubio) IN CONCEPT**, a bill that would help ensure that California's efforts to meet its statewide recycling goals takes into account the changes that have occurred in the end market for recycled goods.

SWANA is the world's largest association of solid waste professionals (10,000 members). SWANA's three California chapters represent more than 900 of those 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.

In order for California to meet its ambitious statewide recycling goals, it must recognize the changing landscape of the end market for recycled goods. Last year, China imposed significant changes in the enforcement of their importing policies for recyclable material, including new strict contamination limits and outright bans on mixed paper and various plastic grades, known as China's National Sword Policy. The Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 established a goal that required local agencies to divert 50% of all solid waste by the year 2000, a goal that has spurred the growth of convenient low-cost recycling programs across the state. While there is a critical "good faith effort provision," local governments who are unable to meet this goal can be subject to administrative penalties.

AB 3178 (Rubio) would add the loss of markets into the "good faith effort" determination, recognizing the important role that end markets for recycled goods play in the ability of jurisdictions to effectively divert waste. Additionally, the bill would allow the storage of recyclable materials in amounts that exceed the design or permitted capacity, and would authorize temporary disposal of recyclable materials if necessary. Further, the bill would prohibit, until January 1, 2023, a jurisdiction from being subject to civil penalties if the need to dispose of excess recyclable materials results from a lack of an available market. As traditional markets for recycled goods continue to change and new markets are developed, California's ability to meet its statewide recycle goals will, in large part, depend on the State's ability to successfully weather these market developments.

For these reasons and more, the SWANA LTF is pleased to **SUPPORT AB 3178 (Rubio) IN CONCEPT**. Thank you for your consideration of this important measure.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES

Jason Schmelzer and Melissa Immel

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Sincerely,



Melissa Immel
Legislative Advocate
Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.

Cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Blanca Rubio, 48th Assembly District

