



April 18, 2018

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

RE: SB 168 (Wieckowski) Recycling: beverage containers - SUPPORT

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 in **SUPPORT** of **SB 168 (Wieckowski)**, which would expand and improve California's current beverage container recycling efforts.

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.

While the current Bottle Bill program is an essential part of California's efforts to reduce the amount of recyclable materials going to landfills, with more than 30 years since its inception it is crucial that we look at some of the program's fundamental structural challenges. By instructing the Department of Resources, Recycling, and Recovery to study and then provide the Legislature with a report on the potential establishment of an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program **SB 168 (Wieckowski)** will help move California one step closer to overcoming the program's consistent funding challenges.

However, even more important than the EPR program study is the changes that **SB 168 (Wieckowski)** will make to help support the end market for recycled goods. In order for California to meet its ambitious statewide recycling goals, it must address the broad structural issues affecting the recycling market. One of the largest issues that the market is currently facing is a shift in the end markets for recycled goods, with China's National Sword policy continuing to impact California recycling markets the establishment of in-state recycling and reprocessing facilities is more crucial than ever. **SB 168 (Wieckowski)** will help address current and future market fluctuations by implementing a minimum standard of recyclable content.

For these reasons and more, the SWANA LTF is pleased to **SUPPORT SB 168 (Wieckowski)**. Thank you for your consideration of this important measure.

Sincerely,

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES

Jason Schmelzer and Melissa Immel

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Cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, 10th Senate District

