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SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

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DATE: August 31, 2011

TO: The Honorable Joe Simitian
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee

FROM: Jason Schmelzer – SWANA Legislative Advocate

RE: **AB 1178 (Ma) – Solid Waste: Place of Origin**

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), the largest association of solid waste professionals (7,700 members), is committed to advancing the practices of environmentally and economically sound management of municipal solid waste. On behalf of their California Chapters, I am writing to **OPPOSE AB 1178 (Ma)** regarding the place of origin for solid waste.

AB 1178 would prohibit a local government from restricting or limiting in any way the importation of solid waste based on the place of origin.

The impacts of solid waste disposal facilities are most acute at the local level, and as a result, it is crucial for local governments to have the authority to protect the quality of life of their residents by placing reasonable constraints on the flow of waste. Local governments should be able to retain the authority to protect public health and the environment by enacting reasonable restrictions on imported waste.

Local governments have established permitting requirements/conditions and/or wasteshed restrictions on disposal facilities for a variety of reasons including preserving local or in-county disposal capacities, reducing traffic impacts on communities, and other site-specific factors that are to avoid creation of nuisances in the best interest of local governments and their constituents. The discretion granted to local governments in establishing boundaries for purposes of controlling the flow of solid waste, on a case by-case basis, has provided an avenue to effectively advance local interests as well as enhancing public health and safety.

For these reasons, the California Chapters of SWANA **OPPOSES AB 1178** and urges your “no” vote when it is heard on the Senate Floor.

cc. Members, Senate EQ Committee