



March 21, 2014

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4038  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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**RE: SB 270 (Padilla) – Single Use Carryout Bags  
SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Padilla,

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) is the world's largest association of solid waste professionals (7700 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.

The SWANA LTF has always been supportive of your efforts to enact a statewide policy on single use carryout bags, although in the past we have not been able to support legislation with local preemption because we don't believe that the price for a statewide program should be sacrificing the fully developed and operational ordinances that paved the way for this statewide debate.

The SWANA LTF believes that SB 270 comes incredibly close to striking an appropriate balance between the need for a statewide policy and the preservation of existing local ordinances in communities around the state. The SWANA LTF would be pleased to **SUPPORT SB 270 IF AMENDED** to allow existing local ordinances to be amended in certain circumstances:

1. Conforming Language – If a local jurisdiction wants to amend their ordinance in a way that makes it more consistent with the statewide policy, they should be allowed to take that action without invalidating the ordinance.

2. Fee Amount – Local jurisdictions should be allowed to amend their ordinance to change the amount of the charge required for recycled paper bags, compostable bags, or reusable bags. If local jurisdictions are not allowed to amend their ordinances in this fashion, they will eventually have to be phased out in favor of the statewide requirements. This is a de facto death sentence for all local ordinances.

The SWANA LTF is pleased to support a statewide program, but it can't be built at the expense of local communities across California that led the way to this moment.

Sincerely,

Jason Schmelzer  
SWANA Legislative Advocate