



**SWANA**<sup>®</sup>  
 SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION  
 of North America

September 15, 2014

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown  
 Governor, State of California  
 State Capitol  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS**

FOUNDING

SIERRA

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**LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE**

[www.swanaca-leg.org](http://www.swanaca-leg.org)

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RE: SB 498 (Lara) – Anaerobic Digestion  
**SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Brown,

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) is the world’s largest association of solid waste professionals (7,700 members), many of which are involved in managing or operating recycling centers, material recovery facilities, and landfills. We are committed to advancing the practice of environmentally- and economically-sound management of municipal solid waste. The SWANA Legislative Task Force (LTF) represents the California Chapters on legislative and regulatory issues.

The SWANA LTF respectfully requests that you **SIGN SB 498** by **Senator Ricardo Lara (D – Bell Gardens)**, which would expand the definition of “biomass conversion” to include other noncombustion thermal technologies to generate electricity without fossil fuel.

Once recyclable materials are optimally removed from the solid waste stream, the waste materials that are left behind have little to no beneficial reuse value in today’s infrastructure. Business as usual is to landfill these materials. While today’s landfills can safely and cost-effectively contain these materials, many of these waste materials can be beneficially used to produce energy or fuel using new types of technologies – conversion technologies. AB 498 is a small step forward for jurisdictions that choose to avoid landfilling and instead pursue the highest use for waste materials.

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 requires jurisdictions to divert 50% of their solid waste from disposal. Further, state law has also established a 75% diversion goal policy for state by 2020. The proposed legislation promotes development of solid waste infrastructures that are desperately needed. This would enhance State and local government efforts to comply and achieve the state mandated 75% diversion goal by 2020.

For these reasons, SWANA respectfully requests that you **SIGN SB 498**.

Sincerely,

Jason Schmelzer  
 SWANA Legislative Advocate