Senate Bill 54/ Assembly Bill 1080: Single-Use Packaging and Products

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with Senator Skinner, Senator Wiener, Senator Stern,
Assemblymember Friedman, Assemblymember Calderon and Assemblymember Ting

IN BRIEF

SB 54/AB 1080 will ensure California is on the forefront of reducing pollution from single-use packaging and products. The bills would set goals to reduce waste from single-use packaging and the most problematic plastic disposable items, and saving local governments millions of dollars in disposal costs and protecting our environment.

BACKGROUND

Every day, single-use packaging and products in California, particularly those made of plastic, generate tons of non-recyclable and non-compostable waste impacting our health, natural environment, and local governments.

Plastic pollution starts with fossil fuel extraction to create plastic and affects individuals, communities, and ecosystems all along the supply chain; from when the products are manufactured, transported, and used, to when they degrade and emit greenhouse gases or impact the environment as litter. Oil refineries, plastic manufacturers and incinerators tend to be located in disadvantaged communities, which then must bear the brunt of the associated health impacts from industry, such as higher asthma rates. With a planned 40-percent increase in plastic production over the next decade, plastic production will account for 20 percent of global fossil fuel consumption unless we make major policy changes to significantly counter this.

One way to reduce the production of plastics is to focus on its use in packaging. Packaging products are typically designed to be used just once and then discarded and they account for 42 percent of all non-fiber plastic produced.

Unlike natural materials that decompose, nearly every piece of plastic ever produced still exists in our landfills or in the environment. As these items fragment into smaller particles, known as microplastics, they concentrate toxic chemicals and contaminate our food and drinking water sources, ranging from bottled water to table salt to fish and agricultural soils. Exposure to these plastics and associated toxins has been linked to cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, endocrine disruption and other serious health problems.

While the state and local communities in California have tried to reduce the burden from single-use packaging since the 1980s, taxpayers and local governments still spend over $420 million annually in ongoing efforts to clean up and prevent litter in streets, storm drains, parks and waterways. Not only is cleanup expensive, but it cannot keep pace with the production of single-use disposable items, which continues to grow exponentially.

Existing recycling infrastructure can’t keep pace either. Less than 9 percent of plastic is recycled, and that percentage is dropping since the implementation of China’s National Sword and policies in other countries, which severely restricted the amount of foreign waste these countries accept. These materials are now either piling up in recycling centers, being landfilled, or sent to illegal facilities in Southeast Asia where they are incinerated, or simply dumped in impoverished areas where it is never dealt with. California must reduce the amount of plastics as a result of these realities.

We can no longer afford to wait on this issue. This is why the European Union and other countries that are major purchasers of consumer goods are implementing comprehensive waste reduction frameworks which urge producers to share in the responsibility of reducing waste and designing products to be reusable, recyclable and/or compostable. As the world’s fifth-largest economy, California has a responsibility to lead on solutions to the growing plastic pollution crisis.

SOLUTION

Eliminating non-reusable, non-recyclable and non-compostable products and reducing packaging is by far the most effective, and least expensive way to protect the health of people, wildlife, and the environment.
SB 54/AB 1080 establish a comprehensive framework to address the pollution and waste crisis and set a statewide goal of ensuring that manufacturers reduce the waste generated by single-use packaging and products by 75% by 2030. Specifically, the bill requires CalRecycle to conduct a robust stakeholder process to develop regulations that do the following:

- Require manufactures and retailers to design their packaging to reduce unnecessary waste and improve the recyclability or compostability of the packaging. Require all single-use packaging to be effectively reusable, recyclable or compostable after 2030.
- Identify the top ten most littered single use plastic products and require these to be manufactured with only recyclable or compostable material.
- Develop incentives and policies to encourage in-state manufacturing using recycled material generated in California.

**SUPPORT**

Algalita Marine Research and Education  
Alvarado Street Brewery & Grill  
American Sustainable Business Council  
As You Sow  
Audubon California  
Azul  
Ban Single Use Plastics (SUP)  
Bon Appetit Management Company  
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners  
Brent Allen Outside  
California Cannabis Coalition  
California Coastal Commission  
California Coastal Protection Network  
California Coastkeeper Alliance  
California Compost Coalition  
California Interfaith Power & Light  
California League of Conservation Voters  
Californians Against Waste  
California Product Stewardship Council  
California ReLEAF  
California Resource Recovery Association  
California State Association of Counties  
California State Parks Foundation  
California Teamsters Public Affairs Council  
CALPIRG  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Climate Change and Health  
Center For Environmental Health  
Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research and Education  
ChicoBag  
Cigarette Butt Pollution Project  
Civic Sundays  

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Clean Water Action  
Coastodian  
Colorado Medical Waste, Inc.  
Communication Workers of America District 9, AFL-CIO  
Communications4Good  
Communitas Financial Planning  
Communities for Sustainable Monterey County  
Community Environmental Council  
Conscious Container  
County of Marin Board of Supervisors  
Democrats of Pasadena Foothills  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Dillon Beach Resort  
Distance Learning Consulting  
Dr. Bronner’s  
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice  
Eco Imprints  
Ecology Center  
Environment California  
Environmental Defense Center  
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water  
Environmental Working Group  
Feminists in Action  
Friends Committee on Legislation of California  
Friends of the Earth  
Friends of the Los Angeles River  
Full Circle Environmental, Inc.  
Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)  
Global Eclipse  
GoodLight Natural Candles  
Green Retirement, Inc.  
Green Valley Community Farm  
Greenpeace  
Guitarfish Music Festival  
Harley Laguna Beach  
Heal the Bay  
Heirs to Our Oceans  
Indivisible Alta-Pasadena  

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Indivisible California Green Team
Indivisible Eagle Rock
Indivisible Media City Burbank
Indivisible Ventura
Inland Empire Disposal Association
Inland Ocean Coalition
Joshua Tree Music Festival
Kasperorganics
Kern Refuse Disposal, Inc.
Kite Music Productions/Flying Kite Motion Pictures
La Cooperativa Campesina
LA Hauler
Latinos in Action
Leadership & Strategy for Sustainable Systems
League of California Cities
League of Women Voters of California
League to Save Lake Tahoe
Long Beach Environmental Alliance
Long Beach Gray Panthers
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)
Los Angeles County Waste Management Association
Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California
Lydia's Kind Foods, Inc.
MD Global
MoneyVoice
Monterey Regional Waste Management District
Napa Recycling & Waste Services
National Parks Conservation Association
National Stewardship Action Council
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Natural Resources Defense Council
No Plastic Oceans
Northcoast Environmental Center
Northern California Recycling Association
Ocean Analytics
Ocean Conservancy
Outdoor Outreach
Owl Post Calligraphy
Pacific Forest Trust
Pacoima Beautiful
Pharmacists Planning Services, Inc.
Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles
Pier 23 Café Restaurant & Bar
Plastic Pollution Coalition
Ponce's Mexican Restaurant
R3 Consulting Group, Inc.
Recology
Redwood City
Refill Madness, LLC
Republic Services
Repurpose
ReThink Waste
Robin’s Restaurant
Rooted in Resistance
Rural County Representatives of California
San Diego 350
San Francisco Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility
San Francisco Baykeeper
San Francisco Department of the Environment
San Francisco Wildlife Rescue
Save Our Shores
Save The Bay
Sea Hugger
Service Employees International Union California
Seventh Generation
Seventh Generation Advisors
S. Groner Associates, Inc.
Shafir Environmental
Shizen & Tataki Restaurants
Sierra Club California
Sierra Leadership
Smart Planet Technologies
SoCal 350
Solid Waste Association of Orange County
St. Francis Center
Steelys Drinkware
StopWaste
Surfrider Foundation
Sustainable Environmental Management Co.
Sustain LA
Symbiosis Gathering
TDC Environmental, LLC
Teamsters Local Union No. 396
The 5 Gyres Institute
The Last Plastic Straw
The Little Chihuahua Mexican Restaurants
The Nature Conservancy
The River Project
The Story of Stuff Project
The Watershed Project
To-Go Ware
TOMRA Systems ASA
Tonic Nightlife Group
TreePeople
Tri-CED Community Recycling
Trust for Public Lands
Turtle Island Restoration Network
UPSTREAM
Valley Improvement Projects
Waste Busters, Inc.
Wholly H2O
WILDCOAST
Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation
Women’s Voices for Earth
World Centric
Yggdrasil Urban Wildlife Rescue of Oakland
Zero Waste Sonoma
Zero Waste USA
350 Bay Area Action
350 Riverside
350 South Bay Los Angeles
350 SoCal Climate Action
350 Sacramento
350 Silicon Valley

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