

Urban Village by the Bay

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
ALBANY, CA 94706
www.AlbanyCA.org

July 1, 2019

The Honorable Ben Allen
California State Senator
State Capitol, Room 4076
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: S.B. 54 (Allen): California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act, Notice of SUPPORT

Dear Senator Allen:

On behalf of the Albany City Council, I want to express Albany's strongly support of S.B. 54. The City Council thanks you for initiating legislation to reduce single use plastic waste from packaging and product sources. S.B. 54 works in harmony with Albany's Climate Action Plan goals.

Single use plastic packaging in California generates tons of non-recyclable and non-compostable waste, impacting our health and environment. Packaging products are designed to be used only once and then discarded. Nearly every piece of plastic ever produced still exists in our environment. It never decomposes. As the plastic breaks up into smaller and smaller pieces, the fragments contaminate the soil, food and drinking water.

Currently, less than 9% of plastics are recycled and that percentage is dropping as China's National Sword and policies in other countries restrict the foreign waste that they accept. These materials are piling up in recycling centers, being sent to the landfill or shipped to illegal facilities in South East Asia where they are most likely incinerated.

The City of Albany is in full support of mandating that producers must take responsibility for reducing waste and designing packaging and products that will not harm our environment. As the fifth largest economy in the world, California should lead in finding solutions to the growing plastic pollution crisis.

I applaud you for your leadership in creating this legislation.

Sincerely,



Rochelle Nason
Mayor
City of Albany

CC: Senator Nancy Skinner (senator.skinner@senate.ca.gov)
Assembly Member Buffy Wicks (Assemblymember.wicks@assembly.ca.gov)
Governor Gavin Newsom
League of California Cities (Via email: cityletters@cacities.org)