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LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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September 20, 2017

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

Dear Governor Brown:

**REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE – ASSEMBLY BILL 954 (CHIU)  
ENROLLED SEPTEMBER 15, 2017: FOOD LABELING: GUIDELINES:  
QUALITY AND SAFETY DATES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) respectfully requests your signature on Assembly Bill 954 (AB 954). If enacted, AB 954 would require the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to publish information to encourage voluntary uniform terms on food product labels to communicate quality dates and safety dates, and alternatives to “sell-by dates”.

Food is one of the most prevalent items currently being disposed at landfills in the State and a major contributor of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The lack of standardized date labels largely contributes to consumer misinterpretation and unnecessary food waste. Consumers find it confusing to decipher ambiguous label language that does not clearly indicate food freshness or safety. Prematurely discarding edible food is a misuse of valuable resources and a financial burden to consumers. AB 954, will help reduce food waste and contribute to achieve the State’s ambitious organic waste diversion and food recovery goals.

Pursuant to the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939) and Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code, the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of Los Angeles and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of ten million. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective and environmentally sound solid waste management system in Los Angeles County, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the system on a countywide basis.

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The Task Force membership includes representatives of the League of California Cities-Los Angeles County Division, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, City of Los Angeles, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

For the foregoing reasons, the Task Force supports AB 954, and respectfully requests your signature on this legislation. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at [MikeMohajer@yahoo.com](mailto:MikeMohajer@yahoo.com) or at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and  
Council Member, City of Rosemead

CA:mg

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cc: Assembly Member David Chiu  
Nancy McFadden, Executive Secretary, Governor's Office  
Karen Ross, Secretary, Department of Food and Agriculture  
California State Association of Counties  
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division  
Each member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
Sachi A. Hamai, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
Westside Cities Council of Governments  
Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles  
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management  
Task Force