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May 26, 2021

**\*\*\* FLOOR ALERT \*\*\***

TO: California State Assembly Members

FROM: Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

**SUPPORT AND AMEND – ASSEMBLY BILL 1371 (FRIEDMAN, LORENA GONZALEZ, AND TING) AS AMENDED ON MAY 24, 2021 – RECYCLING: PLASTIC: PACKAGING AND CARRYOUT BAGS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **SUPPORTS** Assembly Bill 1371 (AB 1371), as amended on May 24, 2021, and recommends that it be **amended** as described below.

AB 1371 would prohibit an online retailer that ships purchased products in or into the state from using single-use plastic packaging that consists of shipping envelopes, cushioning, or void fill to package or transport the products, on and after January 1, 2023, for large online retailers, and on and after January 1, 2025, for small online retailers. The bill would prohibit a manufacturer, retailer, producer, or other distributor that ships purchased products in or into the state from using expanded polystyrene packaging to package or transport the products, except televisions, printers, computer screens, and large appliances until January 1, 2023. Additionally, AB 1371 would establish the At-Store Recycling Program to provide customers the opportunity to return clean plastic carryout bags and clean durable plastic bags to the store and require a plastic carryout bag provided by a store to have specified information displayed on the bag and would require the placement of a collection bin in each store that is easily accessible to the consumer.

The Task Force is in support of such a measure because it would help to source reduce single-use plastic waste, enhances the environmental protection-efforts, ensuring public health and safety while addressing the proposal's economic impacts by phasing out the use of most single-use plastic films and expanded polystyrene in e-commerce packaging for online retail purchases, and establishing an At-Store Recycling Program for clean plastic bags. However, the Task Force has concerns that some products such as medicine may require cold shipment which necessitate the use of specialized packaging that does not meet the new requirements established by AB 1371 (emphasis added). The Task Force strongly recommends that the bill be amended to allow medicine to be shipped using current methods until suitable alternative cold shipping methods are available.

As provided by AB 939 (1989) and Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code, the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of major solid waste planning documents for Los Angeles County and the 88 cities in the County with a population of over ten million. The Task Force addresses issues impacting the solid waste management system on a countywide basis.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **Supports AB 1371, requests your AYE vote on the bill** and recommends it be **amended** to address the medicine issue as described above. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at [MikeMohajer@yahoo.com](mailto:MikeMohajer@yahoo.com) or at (909) 592-1147.