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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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May 23, 2023

The Honorable Tom Carper, Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment
and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Carper:

SUPPORT – THE PFAS LIABILITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2023 (INTRODUCED ON MAY 3, 2023)

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is pleased to **support** the PFAS Liability Protection Act of 2023 (Act) as introduced on May 3, 2023. The Act is incorporated in a suite of Senate Bills (S.) including S.1427, S.1429, S.1430, S.1432 and S.1433.

The proposed legislation, if enacted, would exempt certain entities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) with respect to CERCLA's liability for releases of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), to the environment and negatively impacting public health and safety. The Act would provide a pathway for local governments, states, and tribes to clean up PFAS contamination without fear of being sued by the industries that created the environmental contamination.

The proposed legislations are essential to protecting public health and the environment from the harmful effects of PFAS. The Act would also establish a national research program to better understand the health effects of PFAS and develop new technologies for their removal. PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that have been used in a wide variety of products, including firefighting foams, non-stick cookware, and food packaging. PFAS are known to be highly persistent in the environment and can bioaccumulate in the food chain. Exposure to PFAS has been linked to a number of health problems, including cancer, reproductive problems, developmental disorders, and immune system suppression. PFAS can also enter the food supply through a variety of pathways, including surface water runoff, groundwater contamination, and air pollution. They can also be found in compost and mulch, which are used to improve soil quality and reduce erosion.

The Task Force supports the proposed legislations which would help ensure that PFAS are not further dispersed into the environment and provide much-needed protection for passive receivers of substances containing PFAS. Industry leaders in agricultural, municipal solid waste management, drinking water, wastewater treatment, local government, and other organizations are responsible for safeguarding public health and the environment, including drinking water,

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wastewater treatment, stormwater management, and water recycling facilities, municipal solid waste landfills, and composting facilities. The essential public services that these organizations provide do not involve the manufacture or use of PFAS. These entities and organizations are passive receivers of substances containing PFAS and they should not be held responsible and/or exposed to the CRECLA's liability for the PFAS that are ubiquitous in our environment.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939), 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, larger than 42 states in the United States. 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. 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, waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force is pleased to **support** the suite of Senate Bills regarding the PFAS Liability Protection Act of 2023 and thanks you for your efforts for addressing this critical issue facing the local governments. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at MikeMohajer@gmail.com or (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Sam Shammas, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

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cc: Senators (Lummis, Boozman, Cramer, Graham, Mullin, Ricketts, Sullivan, Wicker)
Each Member and staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment
and Public Works
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Fesia A. Davenport, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments
Each City Mayor and Manager in the County of Los Angeles
Each City Recycling Coordinator in the County of Los Angeles
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force