



MARK PESTRELLA, PE, CHAIR
SAM SHAMMAS, VICE - CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
P.O. BOX 1460, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460
www.lacountyiswmtf.org

July 6, 2023

The Honorable Luz M. Rivas, Chair
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Rivas:

OPPOSED UNLESS AMENDED – SENATE BILL 707 (NEWMAN) AS AMENDED ON JULY 3, 2023 – RESPONSIBLE TEXTILE RECOVERY ACT OF 2023

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) respectfully **opposes** Senate Bill 707 (SB 707), as amended on July 3, 2023, unless the bill is amended to address the concerns listed below.

The proposed legislation, if enacted, would establish the Responsible Textile Recovery Act of 2023 (ACT), which creates an Extended Producer Responsibility program for apparel or textile articles with oversight from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle). Furthermore, the bill establishes a Stewardship organization that would submit to CalRecycle a stewardship plan (Plan) within 12 months of regulations being developed. CalRecycle must then review the Plan and approve, disprove, or conditionally approve the Plan.

The Task Force agrees that this program would create a more efficient and effective system for recycling textiles, and it would help to reduce the amount of textile waste that ends up in landfills. Unfortunately, the amended bill references the definition of "recycling" as set forth in Public Resources Code Section 40180 which excludes conversion technologies, such as energy generation, or fuel production, which could be used to manage post-recycled residual materials for beneficial uses rather than disposed of them in landfills. The Task Force recommends amending the bill to allow the Stewardship organization to find viable end markets for textile materials and do not require intensive use of energy, water, or other resource in the process.

To achieve the intent of the proposed legislation in protection of the public health and the environment, Section 42984 (r) of the proposed legislation should be expanded as listed below:

- **"42984. (r)** "Recycling" has the same meaning as set forth in Section 40180 *and for purposes of this Act "Recycling" also includes reconstituting and processing unsanitary, contaminated, or hard to recycle textile materials for energy generation or fuel to avoid the use of fossil fuels, remove harmful chemicals such as PFAS, reduce litter, and save landfill capacity."*

Similar to provisions of Article 1 of the Chapter 75 of the 2022 State Statutes, the Task Force strongly recommends that SB 707 should clearly state in its Article 1. General Provisions that the establishment of the Stewardship Program is designed to shift the responsibility of managing the end of the life of apparel and textile articles from local jurisdictions to the Stewardship Organization and producers. The Task Force respectfully requests that the following language be added:

"Local jurisdictions are the backbone of the solid waste management and recycling efforts in California. The new statewide comprehensive circular economy framework established by this chapter is intended to shift the burden of costs to collect, process, and recycle materials from the local jurisdictions to the producers of apparel and textile articles products.

It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this chapter to ensure that local jurisdictions will be made financially whole for any new costs incurred associated with the implementation of this chapter and its implementing regulations."

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. 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.

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Based on the foregoing, the Task Force position on July 3, 2023 version of SB 707 is respectfully "**opposed unless amended.**" If you have any questions or would like to discuss the suggested amendments, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at MikeMohajer@gmail.com or (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



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

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cc: Senator (Newman, Skinner, Weiner)
Each Member and staff of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
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