



July 17, 2020

The Honorable Ben Allen
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1672 (Bloom): Solid waste: premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes- Support

Dear Senator Allen:

On behalf of the listed organizations, we are pleased to **SUPPORT AB 1672 (Bloom)**, which establishes standardized labeling practices for single-use wet wipes to provide clear and consistent consumer information about what products are not safe to flush.

The widespread availability of both flushable and non-flushable wipes and lack of consistent and easy to read labeling leads to consumer confusion about how to properly dispose of these products. Consumers frequently use the wastewater system as a means of disposing of diaper wipes, cosmetic wipes, and surface cleaning and disinfectant wipes, even when they are not intended to be flushed and cause expensive clogs in the sewer system.

Since Governor Newsom's Stay-At-Home order, [Executive Order N-33-20](#), enacted on March 19, 2020, a shortage of toilet paper has resulted in people turning to alternatives, such as baby wipes, and flushing them. As a result, local officials are reporting a large influx of non-flushable debris in sewer systems, causing costly and dangerous maintenance. For over a decade, wipes have been one of the leading causes of residential and public sewer system clogs, spills and equipment problems, costing California wastewater operators at least \$50 million a year. These clogs also result in environmental damages when sewers overflow and when wipes shed plastic microfibers, causing microplastic particles in wastewater effluent.

Following the onset of the statewide Stay-At-Home order, agencies that have never experienced wipes related sewer overflows have now reported their first wipes related clogs and sewer spills. Several agencies have reported total equipment failures when their pump systems are overwhelmed with wipes, costing them \$60K per pump. Agencies are reporting increases in maintenance intervals to unclog heavy equipment like pumps and lift stations, and to clear sewer lines with high powered jets. The problems were so pronounced that on March 17, 2020, the State Water Resources Control Board issued a public advisory to stop flushing wipes.

To solve these problems, AB 1672 would require certain single use wet wipes to be clearly labeled with “DO NOT FLUSH” labeling and a related symbol. AB 1672 would also establish the California Consumer Education and Outreach Program to ensure the public understands they should not flush wipes as well as requiring manufactures to participate in a collection study conduction in collaboration with wastewater agencies to gain an understanding of consumer behavior on premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes.

For the many reasons described above, we strongly **SUPPORT AB 1672 (Bloom)** and urge your support when the bill is heard in Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

Sincerely,

CC: Members and Consultants, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Assembly Member Richard Bloom



Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director
National Stewardship Action Council



Doug Kobold, Executive Director
California Product Stewardship Council



Nate Miley, Alameda County Supervisor, District 4,
Alameda County Board of Supervisors



Nick Lapis, Director of Advocacy, Californians
Against Waste



Leslie Mintz Tamminen, Director
Seventh Generation Advisors



Christopher Chin, Executive Director
The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and
Education (COARE)



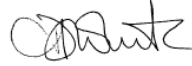
Anna Cummins, Co-Founder and Executive
Director
The 5 Gyres Institute



Joe LaMariana, Executive Director
Rethink Waste



Kevin Kildee, Mayor
City of Camarillo



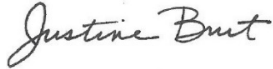
Theresa White, Snr. Executive Officer
Natracare



Shell Cleave, Founder
Sea Hugger



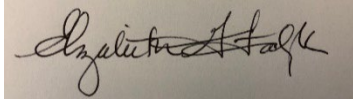
Eric Zetz, Chair
SWANA California Chapters Legislative Task
Force



Justine Burt, Founder & CEO
Appraccel



Mayor Larry Klein, Mayor
City of Sunnyvale



Liz Falejczyk, Environmental Services Manager,
Municipal & Commercial Business
VEOLIA NORTH AMERICA



Lauren Cullum, Policy Advocate
Sierra Club California



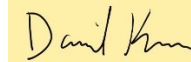
Rosemarie Gaglione, Public Works Director
City of Oxnard



Katherine O'Dea, Executive Director
Save Our Shores



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Ruth Abbe, President
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Eric Zetz, Regional Waste Authority Director
Merced County Association of Governments



Mati Waiya, Executive Director
Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation



Beverly Hanstrom, CEO/Owner
Colorado Medical Waste, Inc.



Emily Parker, Coastal and Marine Scientist
Heal the Bay



Katherine O'Dea, Executive Director
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Miriam Gordon, Program Director
UPSTREAM



Julie Andersen, Global Executive Director
Plastic Oceans International



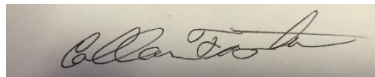
Leslie Lukacs, Executive Director
Zero Waste Sonoma



Jennifer Lombari, General Manager
Mendo Recycle



Alison Sherman, Waste Management
Coordinator
City of Torrance



Colleen Foster, President, California Resource
Recovery Association



Dianna Cohen, Chief Executive Officer
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Dan McIntyre, General Manager
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