



July 29, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Monique Limón
President pro Tempore
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposing End-of-Session Changes to Senate Bill 54 (Allen, 2022)

Dear Gov. Newsom, pro Tem Limón, and Speaker Rivas,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, local governments, and businesses, we are calling on you to reject efforts to pause implementation of SB 54 or otherwise weaken the statute during the final month of the 2025-26 legislative session.

SB 54 remains the world's leading plastic pollution reduction law, and six other states are at various stages of implementing similar laws. Carefully negotiated with a diverse array of stakeholders as an alternative to a qualified statewide ballot measure, SB 54's primary objectives are to protect public health and the environment, shift the financial responsibility for managing the extraordinary waste associated with single-use packaging and plastic food service ware from ratepayers to producers, improve recycling outcomes, incentivize packaging innovation that eliminates materials or increases recycling and reduces management costs, and curb rising trash bills and pollution cleanup costs that are otherwise borne by California families, businesses, and local governments.

According to CalRecycle's [Statement of Regulatory Impact Assessment \(SRIA\)](#), **SB 54 will save Californians \$2.50 on cleanup and health costs for every \$1 spent to implement SB 54.** Producing an estimated \$53 billion in savings to California, SB 54 is an extraordinarily valuable public policy. By shifting financial responsibility for packaging

waste management to producers, SB 54 is designed to incentivize them to use less packaging and to design for recyclability, not look for ways to continue to leave consumers and ratepayers footing the bill. Managing packaging waste -- which makes up more than 50% of what California landfills by volume (27% by weight) -- isn't free; someone always pays.

The [latest PPIC poll](#) indicates that 65 percent of Californians continue to consider plastic pollution a big problem. But Californians aren't seeing the full positive impact of SB 54 yet, because most compliance deadlines are still not upon us, and because regulations were delayed by more than a year due to intense lobbying pressure by industries seeking compliance relief. Changing SB 54 now is neither needed nor warranted: producers worried about costs can meaningfully reduce them by shifting to more recyclable materials, utilizing recycled content in their packaging, eliminating unnecessary packaging components, and moving to reusable formats.

California is at a critical juncture -- four years into the implementation of SB 54 -- where producers finally have to start making these critical packaging design changes to meet upcoming compliance deadlines. Many companies are already making significant investments in their supply chains and in the future of a more resilient domestic circular economy and to comply with the law. To blink now and pull the rug out from under them would send the signal that the investments companies should make are in lobbying, not in achieving the law's objectives.

Like other comprehensive laws of this complexity, SB 54 presents implementation challenges, and each engaged stakeholder holds unique perspectives and concerns with how some parts of the regulations or implementation process have not met their expectations. The law is a delicate balance of interests and undoubtedly will require reconvening stakeholders to iron out implementation issues. If there is a need to address any issues with the statute, that should be led this fall by the Senate Environmental Quality and Assembly Natural Resources committees, working closely with the Administration and all engaged stakeholders.

Weakening SB 54 won't eliminate or reduce costs -- it just shifts them back to California local governments, families, and businesses. We urge you to stand by this transformative law that was overwhelmingly approved by a supermajority of the legislature and signed by Gov. Newsom.

Sincerely,

Amy Wolfrum
Director, California Policy and
Government Affairs
Monterey Bay Aquarium

Dr. Anja Brandon
Director of US Plastics Policy
Ocean Conservancy

Heidi Sanborn
Executive Director/CEO
National Stewardship Action Council
(NSAC)

Timothy Burroughs
Executive Director
StopWaste

Jordan Wells
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties

Nick Lapis
Director of Advocacy
Californians Against Waste

Melissa Sparks-Kranz
Legislative Advocate
League of California Cities

Veronica Pardo
Executive Director
Resource Recovery Coalition of
California

Christy Leavitt
Plastics Campaign Director
Oceana

Miho Ligare
Plastic Pollution Initiative Senior
Manager
Surfrider Foundation

Joanne Brasch
Assistant Director
California Product Stewardship Council

Thomas Helme
Co-Founder/Co-Director
Valley improvement Project

cc: The Honorable Ben Allen
The Honorable Catherine Blakespear
The Honorable Isaac Bryan
Zoe Heller, Director, CalRecycle
Yana Garcia, Secretary, CalEPA