



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 14, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Room 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1201 (Ting)—Solid Waste: Plastic Products: Labeling: Compostability and Biodegradability

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I urge your signature on AB 1201. This bill proposes to improve plastic labeling requirements for compostable and biodegradable materials. As a coastal city with seven miles of beaches and two rivers, the City recognizes the impact consumer product labeling has on the environment.

In May 2018, the Long Beach City Council unanimously approved the addition of Chapter 8.63 to its Municipal Code prohibiting businesses from using single-use food and beverage containers made of polystyrene, non-recyclable and non-compostable materials for prepared food distribution. As of October 2020, all retail and commercial food containers in Long Beach are free of polystyrene and rigid polystyrene #6. The ordinance aims to prevent waste, decrease single-use disposable materials, and clarify the City's waste stream disposal guidelines. AB 1201 will further aid the City's consumer education and collection of compostable materials.

Despite best efforts, litter has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. The recent passage of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 led the Long Beach City Council to unanimously approve the Long Beach Recovery Plan outlining recovery initiatives, including \$5 million for efforts to keep the City clean from litter, trash, and debris. The City is committed to environmental responsibility, which AB 1201 will advance.

The City supports legislation in alignment with the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). The City is in the process of finalizing a CAAP to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change. AB 1201 would assist proper organic waste disposal, a key element of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Long Beach and throughout California. Given these reasons, the City requests your signature on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District