

April 21, 2021

Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, Chair
Accountability and Administrative Review Committee
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 357
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 661 (Bennett): Recycling Materials- SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Petrie-Norris,

On behalf of the Board of CPSC, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill 661 (Bennett). This bill will update and enhance California's State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign (SABRC) to increase the purchase of recycled content and recyclable materials and drive markets for recycled and recyclable products.

SABRC was created as a collaborative effort between CalRecycle and the Department of General Services to implement state laws requiring state agencies and the legislature to purchase recycled content product (RCP) and track those purchases. Currently, a few issues with SABRC prevent it from being as effective as it could be. One issue with the program is that it does not address all products that have recycling or greenhouse gas associations. Some products are left off the product list, such as carpet, lumber, and textiles. In addition, SABRC's minimum RCP standards are outdated, which inhibits the state from reaching its recycled content goals.

Departments in the state must do a better job of showing what products containing recycled content have been approved for use. For example, in the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) sustainability website page, an individual has to dive deep into their sustainability report to see how CalTrans is complying with SABRC. Local governments would be better served with an easily accessible webpage where they can see what RCP are approved for use by CalTrans. Further, CalTrans and other departments should be placing a priority on approving RCP to replace virgin material products.

AB 661 would require state agencies to adhere to a recycled product standard when contracting with vendors. Adhering to these standards will result in an increase recycled product purchases that would benefit the state's recycled product market and help the state meet its recycling objectives. For the reasons stated above, we support AB 661 and respectfully request your AYE vote.

Respectfully,



Doug Kobold, Executive Director
California Product Stewardship Council

Cc: Assemblymember Steve Bennett
