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April 22, 2019

The Honorable Mark Stone, Chair
Assembly Judiciary Committee
1020 N Street, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1672 (Bloom), Solid Waste: Flushable Products—SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Stone:

On behalf of the Placer County Board of Supervisors, we are pleased to support AB 1672 (Bloom). AB 1672 would establish truthful labeling requirements and standardized performance standards for disposable products, such as wet wipes, so that Californians will know whether or not a product can be discarded safely into a sewer or septic system. In recent years, wet wipes have gained popularity as they're designed for a variety of daily household purposes, and some are advertised as "flushable," which encourages residents to dispose of wipes in their toilet instead of in the trash can.

However, many wet wipes, even when labeled "flushable," do not actually break down in sewer systems and flushing these products results in significant issues. The wipes can get caught in pipes or accumulate with fats, oils, and grease, becoming larger obstructions that cause costly backups for property owners. Further down the sewer line, they get stuck in pump systems, burn up motors, and damage expensive agency equipment which then must be repaired with ratepayer dollars, even though only a portion of ratepayers may be contributing to this problem, and unknowingly at that.

Over the last decade, improperly labeled wet wipes have been an increasing problem for property owners, sewer systems, and ratepayers. These challenges are being experienced by agencies around the state. AB 1672 would provide a simple and effective solution—wipes can only be labeled "flushable" if manufacturers demonstrate that they break down in sewer systems; otherwise, they must be labeled "Do Not Flush."

For these reasons, the Placer County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support AB 1672, and we respectfully request your vote when the bill is heard before your committee. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Hanson, Senior Planner at CHanson@placer.ca.gov or (530) 886 4965.

Sincerely,

Kirk Uhler, Chair (District 4)

Placer County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Assemblymember Richard Bloom
Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Placer County Board of Supervisors
Todd Leopold, Placer County Executive Officer
Jessica Gauger, California Association of Sanitation Agencies
Nicholas Liedtke, Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee