



April 17, 2013

Assembly Member Wesley Chesbro
State Capitol, Rm. 2141
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 323 (Chesbro) Greenwaste / Food Scrap Recovery & Composting- Strong Support

Dear Assembly Member Chesbro:

We would like to express our strong support for Assembly Bill 323 (Chesbro). AB 323 presents a package of policies that will drive the recycling of yard trimming and food scraps, not only resulting in a reduction of pollution and greenhouse gases, but also creating jobs and supporting a burgeoning clean tech industry.

Despite California's robust recycling infrastructure for traditional recyclables, the state continues to landfill organic materials, such as yard trimmings and food scraps, at an alarming rate. In fact, food is the most prevalent item in our waste stream and a third of the material going to landfills is readily compostable. This is simply unacceptable, and, in the context of achieving a 75% recycling rate and strict greenhouse gas limits, it would be irresponsible not to recycle this material.

Tackling this waste stream is an integral part of achieving the goals in AB 341 and AB 32. According to CalRecycle "the 75% goal cannot be reached unless a significant amount of organics now being landfilled is instead used in new composting/AD facilities," and the ARB has repeatedly identified the importance of composting and anaerobic digestion to reduce greenhouse gases. Nonetheless, the building of organics processing infrastructure has been hindered by a complex regulatory structure and state policies that have supported low-cost disposal alternatives.

AB 323 is a comprehensive approach to tackling the organic fraction of the waste stream that parallels AB 341 and builds on the CalRecycle's existing Strategic Directive, which proposes that organics in landfill be reduced by 50 percent by 2020. Moreover, this bill has the potential to reduce greenhouse gases by more than 4 million tons of CO2 each year, create renewable energy and fuels, and generate four times more jobs than landfilling the same material.

The US Composting Council (USCC), a 501(c)6 Trade and Professional Association, is the only national organization in the United States dedicated to the development, expansion and promotion of the composting industry. The USCC has over 800 member companies, including private and municipal compost producers, equipment manufacturers, product suppliers, academic institutions, public agencies, nonprofit groups and consulting/engineering firms.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Michael Virga
Executive Director

c.c. Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee

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