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California Resource Recovery Association

June 15, 2009

Senator Joe Simitian, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
VIA FAX: (916) 322-3519

Re: AB 479 (Chesbro) Solid Waste Diversion – Support

Dear Senator Simitian:

We urge you to vote YES on Assembly Bill 479 (Chesbro) when it is heard in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

AB 479 is the logical next step in California's leading role to reverse a landfill disposal-based system with one that returns discarded resources to the value-added economy, and replaces spent landfill capacity with green jobs. As the primary actors in California's waste diversion and resource recovery advancements since AB 939 (California's landmark 1989 recycling act) and well before, CRRA members are well qualified to endorse the 75% waste diversion goal put forth in AB 479.

Likewise, the provisions in AB 479 for mandatory recycling for the commercial and multi-family dwelling sectors are timely and logical progressions that build upon California's waste diversion and recycling achievements to date. Even as we have built a state-wide residential and drop-off recycling infrastructure that is the envy of the nation, the commercial and multi-family sectors remain disproportionately under served. As a number of California communities which have enacted local mandatory recycling ordinances (including Sacramento and San Diego) are demonstrating, mandatory recycling is an effective remedy for the disparity in recycling performance in these sectors.

While we support a state wide requirement for mandatory commercial recycling, it is critical that local communities can implement mandatory recycling programs that meet their unique conditions and needs. Should AB 479 be enacted, CRRA looks forward to working with the California Integrated Waste Management Board to ensure just that.

Please vote YES on AB 479.

J. Muir

Julie Muir
President, CRRA

Cc: Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Assembly Member Wesley Chesbro

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