



March 3, 2021

The Honorable Bob Archuleta
California State Senate
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Position: SUPPORT

Location: Senate Environmental Quality
Committee

Re: SB 244 (Archuleta) Lithium-ion batteries: illegal disposal: fire protection (As Introduced January 21, 2021)

Dear Senator Archuleta:


We the undersigned are writing in support of your [SB 244](#), legislation that would address the increased incidence of lithium-ion fires at waste and recycling facilities and operations. Recently enacted legislation places an even higher priority on waste recycling and composting as a way to both protect the environment and respond to the adverse impacts of climate change. This places an even greater importance on the need to protect and grow the network of facilities, recycling operations, fleets, and programs and to protect this essential infrastructure.

SB 244 coordinates experts from state government (including, but not limited to, CAL FIRE, the CHP, DTSC, and CalRecycle) with waste industry experts and local governments to develop protocols for managing discarded lithium-ion batteries and to develop a **guidance document** to inform, educate and increase public awareness about fire risk from improper disposal of lithium-ion batteries. It also would require waste industry enterprises to work with county fire marshals annually to develop a protocol for discarded lithium-ion batteries and thus prevent future fires.

SB 244 is an important first step in bringing attention to this problem and engaging expert partners to focus on this issue, provide updates to existing protocols and advance new best practices. We thank you for your leadership on this bill, and we offer our support for this measure.

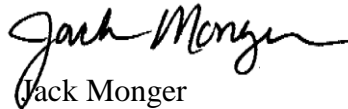
Very truly yours,


Adam J. Regele
Policy Advocate
California Chamber of Commerce


Steve McCarthy
Vice President, Public Policy
California Retailers Association



Kathryn Lynch
Regulatory Affairs
California Waste Haulers Council



Jack Monger
CEO
Industrial Environmental Associates

cc: Ms. Melissa Immel, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs,
Governor's Office
Ms. Rylie Ellison, Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Ms. Katie Camerer, Senate Fellow, Senate Republican Caucus
Mr. John Ackler, Senator Archuleta's Office