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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 28, 2024

The Honorable Ben Allen
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
1020 O Street, Suite 6610
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SB 1053 (Blakespear): Solid waste: reusable grocery bags: standards: plastic film prohibition**
As amended 2/8/24 – SUPPORT
Set for hearing 4/17/24 – Senate Environmental Quality Committee

Dear Senator Allen:

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for Senate Bill 2236, a measure that seeks to eliminate the existing provision of law that allows film plastic bags to be distributed as reusable bags under the state's bag ban, as well as improve standards for other reusable bags.

While Californians approved a single-use plastic bag ban in 2016, the definition used for "reusable bag" in SB 270 allowed the use of thicker film plastic bags that meet the requirements for reuse, but are not typically reused by consumers. Initially the plastic bag ban did drive the use of single-use plastic bags down, recent studies suggest that the trend is reversing.

The Board of Supervisors recently approved the 2024 legislative platform that includes the Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection plank, which includes support for legislation that reduces the negative environmental impacts of single-use items, promoting more sustainable alternatives to single-use items, and phasing out the use of single-use items on a statewide basis when environmentally preferable alternatives are available.

As a result, the County of Santa Barbara supports SB 1053 and respectfully requests your "aye" vote on the measure. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions about our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jean Kinney Hurst", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
The Honorable Catherine Blakespear, California State Senate
Honorable Members, Santa Barbara County Legislative Delegation