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SAN BERNARDINO**

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385 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110
(909) 387-4821

GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

April 18, 2014

The Honorable Mariko Yamada
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5160
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2251 (Yamada) - Support

Dear Assemblymember Yamada:

The County of San Bernardino supports AB 2251 because it would provide more clarity for the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and county sealers to enforce over-collection of California Redemption Value (CRV) on beverage containers.

The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act limits enforcement of improper CRV collection to CalRecycle, which lacks adequate enforcement capabilities. County agricultural commissioners and sealers are ideally situated to respond to CRV overcharge complaints. However, because the CRV is not a commodity, they lack authority to investigate and enforce improper CRV collection. AB 2251 would authorize agricultural commissioners and sealers to enforce the requirement that dealers are prohibited from charging more for a redemption payment than the actual CRV.

Fraud—including the importation of out-of-state beverage containers—has siphoned millions from the program, and, as a result, CalRecycle operates in a structural deficit. Agricultural commissioners and sealers are licensed by CDFA to investigate and enforce misrepresentations of charges for services, and this bill would allow these county officials to play a major role in preventing recycling fraud.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports AB 2251 and thanks you for addressing this important issue. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs, at (909) 387-4821] or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

JANICE RUTHERFORD
Board of Supervisors Chair
Second District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

c: County of San Bernardino Legislative Delegation