

## Clean Marin Action Team Legislative Update March 2018

### **AB 2779 (Stone) – “Leash the lid” bill.**

Contact [Assembly Member Marc Levine](#).

Contact [Assembly Member Mark Stone](#).

This bill will prohibit the sale of single-use plastic beverage containers unless the cap is tethered to the container or the cap contains an opening that allows the beverage to be consumed without removing the cap.

Detached caps are a pervasive litter problem and were the third most common item collected on Coastal Cleanup Days. Additionally, detached caps cannot be recycled as they are unable to be sorted at the recycling facility.

The bill has institutional support from groups including Californians Against Waste, the League of Conservation Voters, Save the Bay, and Surfrider Foundation. It is opposed by the American Beverage Association, the California Grocers Association, and other groups associated with the beverage and plastic bottle industry.

### **AB 1884 (Calderon) – Single-Use Plastic Straws**

Contact [Assembly Member Marc Levine](#).

Contact [Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon](#).

This widely publicized bill would prohibit a food facility from providing single-use plastic straws to consumers unless they are requested. This bill received a large amount of press because it was drafted in a code section that included a fine, which caused an uproar and elicited negative reactions. The bill was subsequently amended to move it to a different code section without a fine.

As with bottle caps, plastic straws do not get recycled. Due to their small size and plastic content, they are disposed of in the landfill. Unfortunately these items are ubiquitous in fast food and other types of restaurants.

This bill has not yet been heard in committee, so no formal support or opposition has been compiled, and no votes have taken place. This is a great time to engage because not many impressions have been made yet.

### **SB 168 (Wieckowski) – Minimum Recycled Content Standards**

Contact [Senator Mike McGuire](#).

Contact [Senator Bob Wieckowski](#).

This bill requires The Department of Resources, Recycling, and Recovery (CalRecycle) to establish minimum recycled content standards for plastic beverage containers used in California by 2023. The bill also requires a report on the establishment of an Extended Producer Responsibility program to replace the current beverage container recycling program.

Currently, several products, including glass, trash bags, and newspaper, have mandated minimum recycled content standards. Recycled content standards reduce environmental impacts, stimulate the economy, and promote innovation and creativity in product design.

This bill has passed out of the Senate, and will next be heard in Assembly policy committee. This is a good opportunity to engage with the committee and members if the group so desires.

### **SB 705 (Allen) – Polystyrene Food Service Containers**

Contact [Senator Mike McGuire](#).

Contact [Senator Ben Allen](#).

This bill prohibits food vendors from dispensing prepared food to a customer in an expanded polystyrene food service container. The ban would apply to chain establishments in 2020, and for everyone else in 2022. The bill allows for hardship exemptions, and exempts hospitals, correctional facilities, and school campuses.

Polystyrene, such as styrafoam, can take hundreds of years to biodegrade, and technologies to recycle it are not cost effective currently. Even worse, many people mistakenly believe that it is recyclable, causing contamination in recycling bins and facilities.

This bill failed passage on the Senate Floor. The author is contemplating introducing another bill this session to prohibit this type of packaging, so there are opportunities to get involved.