



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

March 29, 2017

Assembly Member Cristina Garcia, Chair
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 319-2192

Re: AB 509 (Frazier) Tire Recycling Incentive Program – Strong Support

Dear Assembly Member Garcia,

We would like to express our strong support for Assembly Bill 509.

The Northern California Recycling Association (NCRA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1978, primarily to promote environmentally sound discards management practices, including waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting. Our 200 members include recycling businesses, employees, entrepreneurs, and individuals supportive of various Bay Area and State Zero Waste initiatives.

Assembly Bill 509, would significantly increase tire recycling, support local government infrastructure development, and reduce the incentive for illegal dumping of waste tires.

AB 509 would create a regulatory fee up to \$1.00 per new tire sold, for a program fund towards providing incentive payments to increase the state's used tires recycling rate, and allow recyclers to compete with disposal, export, and illegal dumping alternatives. Despite the significant funding and human resources expended by CalRecycle, and its predecessor agency over the previous two decades, California still landfills, burns, or exports approximately 26 million out of the 42 million tires generated in the state each year. This recycling rate is not only unacceptably low for such a longstanding program, but it has also remained largely stagnant.

AB 509 will mitigate the scourge of illegally dumped tires, which continue to pose significant costs to local agencies and the state, as well as presenting health and safety risks to the public. This is despite the fact that tires are highly recyclable. Rubberized paving has proven to be the largest market for recycled tires, and local government paving programs have the potential to use significantly more recycled tires in the place of traditional asphalt. This not only recycles used tires, but also produces roads that are quieter, function better under wet conditions, and last

longer. The use of recycled rubber paving materials also reduces long term paving and repaving costs, saving local governments money.

AB 509 will increase the recycling of tires by replicating the incentive payment model that has proven to be successful for several other recycled materials, including the state's Electronic Waste Recycling Program and the Beverage Container Recycling Program.

The bill also will direct CalRecycle to develop an incentive payment program that pays directly for recycling, which in turn will allow recyclers to out compete other end-of-life alternatives. Importantly, the new incentive program would encourage "highest and best use" differentiation, with higher payments going to "preferred end-users" that recycle tires into new products such as rubberized asphalt concrete, moderate payments for end uses such as tire-derived aggregate, and lower payments for less-preferred non-disposal management such as energy generation.

Furthermore, by redirecting the Department's existing market development efforts from a series of competitive grant programs to a guaranteed incentive payment program, AB 1239 allows both local governments and recycled content manufacturers to plan and budget for sustained use of recycled tire products. AB 509 offers the necessary next step for the state's tire recycling program.

NCRA urges your Aye vote when AB 509 is heard in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

Sincerely,

K. D. Brooms

K. Douglas Brooms

NCRA Board of Directors, Co-chair Zero Waste Advocacy Committee

CC: Assembly Member Jim Frazier
Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee

PO Box 5581, Berkeley, CA 94705

Phone 510-217-2433

ncra@ncrarecycles.org

www.ncrarecycles.org