



CITY/COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

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September 9, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1200 (Ting) – Plant-based food packaging: cookware: hazardous chemicals – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG), I am writing to respectfully request your signature on AB 1200 (Ting), which would ban the intentional use of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in plant-based food packaging and further require manufacturers of cookware containing hazardous chemicals, including PFAS, to inform consumers of the intentional addition of such chemicals via warning labels.

C/CAG is a joint powers agency whose members comprise the County of San Mateo and the twenty incorporated cities and towns in San Mateo County. C/CAG works on issues of countywide significance, including administering the countywide Stormwater Program that supports our member agencies' compliance with municipal stormwater regulatory requirements issued by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. AB 1200 takes a proactive approach to reducing the future impacts to water quality, the environment, and public health by regulating the manufacture, sale and distribution of food packaging containing PFAS, which are a particularly hazardous, persistent and ubiquitous class of chemicals used widely in alternative plant-based food packaging and other consumer products.

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances are a broadly used class of fluorine-enriched chemicals found in more than 4,700 consumer, commercial, industrial applications. Through ambient bay, sediment and fish tissue monitoring conducted by the San Francisco Bay Regional Monitoring Program administered by the San Francisco Bay Estuary Institute, which C/CAG supports financially each year on behalf of its member agencies, PFAS compounds have been identified as a "moderate concern" emerging contaminant, due to their broad use, environmental persistence and potential adverse effects on water quality and toxicity to aquatic life. As more local agencies, including several C/CAG member agencies, adopt new foodware ordinances to ban single-use plastics in foodware packaging, it is increasingly important to ensure replacement products are safe for the environment and people.

By focusing on the upstream application of PFAS in food packaging, AB 1200 addresses this high priority pollutant at the source rather than requiring local agencies and programs to monitor and remediate effects after the fact. A state-wide ban on PFAS in food packaging will also provide consistency and more efficient information sharing as local agencies continue to advocate for and adopt healthier and environmentally sound policies to reduce plastic waste. CCAG strongly supports and respectfully requests your signature on AB 1200 to cost-effectively and proactively protect water quality and public health with respect to PFAS in food packaging

and cookware.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marie Chuang". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marie Chuang, Chair

City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County