April 4, 2018

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi, Chair
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2379 (Bloom) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Muratsuchi:

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) has taken a “Support” position on AB 2379 (Bloom), which seeks to curb microplastic and microfiber pollution through source control. CASA is an association of California wastewater agencies engaged in advancing the recycling of wastewater into usable water, maximizing beneficial use of biosolids, generating renewable energy, and producing other valuable resources.

Microfiber and microplastic pollution has recently been the subject of great public interest, in particular as it relates to studies reporting that microfibers have been detected in almost all sources of water. Various research efforts relating to microplastic (and microfiber) pollution have been initiated in recent years, including some being done in conjunction with the wastewater community. Given the widespread nature and scope of the problem, wastewater agencies and other stakeholders are evaluating possible future approaches and solutions for dealing with microplastic pollution.

AB 2379 (Bloom) would require certain types synthetic clothing with high plastic microfiber content to have a warning label advising that the article of clothing be hand washed. Clothing with high microfiber content tends to “shed” fibers in household washing machine effluent, which is then sent through the wastewater treatment process. Not all wastewater treatment systems are able to filter plastic microfibers, and they are sometimes passed through to the receiving waters. Even those microfibers that are captured can end up in biosolids, and ultimately the environment. Requiring labeling of high-microfiber content clothing increases consumer awareness of the issue and promotes source control.

For these reasons CASA is pleased to support AB 2379. We appreciate the efforts of Assembly Member Bloom to increase consumer awareness and propose solutions for dealing with microplastic pollution through this and other legislation.

Sincerely,

Jessica Gauger
Manager of Legislative Affairs

CC: The Honorable Richard Bloom