



Glass Container Industry Supports California Legislation to Advance Dual Stream Recycling

Arlington, VA (February 22, 2019) - The Glass Packaging Institute applauds California Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry on her introduction of Assembly Bill 815, which incentivizes communities and recyclers to adopt “dual stream” recycling systems.

AB 815 is milestone legislation, signaling a growing national interest in separation of recyclables at the curb. This renewed focus will increase the amount of recyclable materials recovered for manufacturers and other end markets. Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry’s bill takes the bold step of recognizing that dual stream recycling is superior in recovering recyclable materials from California households.

Her legislation directs the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to recognize that any municipality that maintains or adopts a dual stream curbside program would be deemed to meet the state-mandated 50% “source reduction and recycling” requirement. While recycled glass is recovered in single stream (one-bin) programs across the country, dual stream adoption would assist the glass container, and all stakeholders in reducing contamination and ultimate landfill disposal.

AB 815 highlights that anywhere from 25% to 50% of single stream curbside recycling is “contaminated,” reducing its usefulness to end-markets and crushing its value to municipal recycling systems.

Single stream recycling programs across California and the country have seen increasing contamination rates, due to an influx of non-recyclable and other items being placed in curbside bins, and associated sorting difficulties. Combined with recycling market export challenges due to strict contamination limits set by the Chinese government, dual stream programs provide end market stability.

Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry’s legislation recognizes the recovery challenges faced by single stream recycling programs in meeting current market challenges, by rewarding those California jurisdictions that maintain or switch to dual stream recovery, thus increasing the marketability of recovered recyclables.

About the Glass Packaging Institute

The Glass Packaging Institute is the voice of the North American glass container industry. The glass container industry has four glass container manufacturing plants in California serving the food and beverage industry. GPI companies purchase of 2 million tons of post-consumer glass annually. To learn more visit www.gpi.org, or contact Bryan Vickers, 703-403-2882.

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