



September 9, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor
State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 68 (Galgiani) Hazardous waste: treated wood waste

Dear Governor Newsom:

Platinum Advisors writes to respectfully REQUEST your SIGNATURE on SB 68 (Galgiani) on behalf of California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains (CAHMPC). CAHMPC exchanges information relative to construction, maintenance, operation, regulation, enforcement, administration and management, pertaining to boats, marinas and harbors.

SB 68 (Galgiani) would make the disposal of treated wood waste in a composite-lined portion of a solid waste landfill (Class II or Class III) permanent. The treated wood waste program has been in place since 2005 with the passage of AB 1353 (Matthews, Chapter 597, Statutes of 2004). Since the program has been established, disposing of treated wood waste has been easier while maintaining public health and environmental safety. If SB 68 is not signed into law, generators of treated wood waste would be limited to dispose their waste in one of three Class I hazardous waste landfills, which are in King, Kern, and Imperial Counties. Each year treated wood waste generators dispose anywhere between 150 to 180 million pounds of treated wood waste.

Treated wood is used for many essential services such as guardrail posts that keep drivers safe on our freeways, utility poles that transmit electricity and communication, and marine pilings that make up the foundation of our ports and harbors. The need to access disposal facilities is crucial to allow these essential services to continue without interruption. The treated wood waste program goes beyond these essential services to include but not limited to, producers, workers, haulers, agriculture, contractors, the parks system, and state and local governments.

There have been two studies that have thoroughly vetted the success of the treated wood waste program. Overall, both studies have concluded that treated wood waste is going to the proper landfills. The most recent study required by SB 162 (Galgiani, Chapter 351, Statutes of 2015) identified the need for consumers to have more disposal options (i.e., landfills). Limiting disposal to a Class I hazardous waste landfill would be bad for consumers, government entities and the environment.

SB 68 also increases transparency for the public by posting currently available information provided to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) by generators reporting their disposal amounts. The bill will improve treated wood waste compliance with increased training materials provided by the wood preserving industry to DTSC and the Contractors State Licensing Board that describes how to best handle, dispose and manage treated wood waste.

SB 68 also includes additional oversight activities that will further ensure the sustainability of the treated wood waste program. The bill provides a pathway for DTSC to provide an update to the Legislature, specifically the Budget Committees, in 2022 as part of their normal budget cycle on the resources they may need for future oversight activities.

The treated wood waste program has been remarkably effective for California and our environment, and CAHMPC respectfully requests the Governor's signature on the measure.

Sincerely,

Beau Biller
Lobbyist
Platinum Advisors

cc: Ms. Rachel Wagoner, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office
Senator Cathleen Galgiani, Author, Brad Gross, Executive Director CAHMPC