News Release

For Immediate Release

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OPPOSITION TO “BAG BAN BILL” (AB 1998) NEAR 500 STRONG: SMALL GROCERS, RETAILERS LEAD THE PACK

Sacramento, CA (August 20, 2010) – Opposition to AB 1998, the so-called “bag ban bill,” is growing rapidly across the state. Hundreds of businesses, many of them small grocers and retailers have joined forces with manufacturing associations, chambers of commerce and plastic bag makers statewide to send a clear message to Sacramento: start focusing on the real problems facing Californians.

In its current iteration, AB 1998 would prohibit large grocers, drug stores, food marts and convenience stores from providing their customers free plastic bags and require a minimum five-cent fee on paper bags. The Senate Appropriations Committee determined that AB 1998 would require $2 million in new state costs to fund a new “bag police” bureaucracy. The fees collected from paper bags would be pocketed by grocers and would not fund the infrastructure required by the bill. The passage of AB 1998 would result in the elimination of hundreds of California-based plastic bag manufacturing jobs and would dismantle a young but growing plastic bag recycling infrastructure.

AB 1998 is pending consideration by the Senate Rules Committee after it was moved from the Senate Appropriations Committee late last week without a vote. Because AB 1998 did not meet the August 13th committee reporting deadline, it would require a 2/3 majority to pass to the Senate floor for final consideration before the legislature adjourns August 31.

The growing list of those opposing AB 1998 includes:

- Fiesta Foods
- Food Fair Market
- Market Produce
- Sierra Produce
- Whittier Farms
- Garden Ranch Market
- Black Business Association
- California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

- more –
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- California Manufacturers & Technology Association
- California Film Extruders & Converters Association
- Californians for Extended Producer Responsibility
- Silicon Valley Black Chamber of Commerce
- Long Beach Black Chamber of Commerce
- Moreno Valley Black Chamber of Commerce
- Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce
- Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, (Long Beach)
- Downey Chamber of Commerce
- San Diego Urban Economic Corporation
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Alameda County
- Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau
- Hispanic Chambers of Commerce Silicon Valley
- Carson Black Chamber of Commerce
- Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Fresno
- Los Angeles Metro Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- South Bay Latino Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles
- Cambodian Chamber of Commerce, Long Beach
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Orange County
- Inland Empire Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- California Coalition of Filipino American Chambers of Commerce, Los Angeles
- American Chemistry Council

For a full list of the nearly 500 small businesses and organizations opposed to AB 1998 and more information about the fight against AB 1998, visit www.stopthebagpolice.com. Visitors are also invited to sign up to receive updates.

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http://www.americanchemistry.com

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