

**Statement from Linda Escalante, Caryl Hart, PhD, and Michael J. Sangiacomo**

**Petitioners for the California Recycling and Plastics Pollution Reduction Act Initiative**

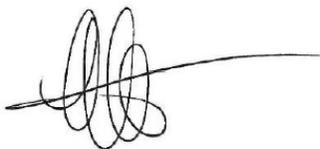
In December of 2019, we three individuals partnered with like-minded organizations who both cared deeply about the environmental devastation caused by single-use plastics and had seen the state legislature repeatedly fail to pass a comprehensive set of reforms to meaningfully address this crisis. Collectively we drafted a people's initiative to advance the reforms needed and worked to qualify a measure for this November's ballot.

With the ballot measure looming over plastic producers, industry lobbyists finally came to the table with environmental advocates and legislators to craft a policy that would set recycling performance standards and source reduction requirements for single-use plastic packaging and food ware, require plastics producers to fund recycling infrastructure, and fund pollution mitigation and conservation efforts. This legislation, SB 54, appears to be headed for Governor Newsom's desk if we three proponents withdraw the people's initiative.

While some have made claims that SB 54 is the strongest plastics pollution policy ever to be enacted in the United States, we are less interested in hyperbole and more focused on how the policy will be implemented and enforced. Already, the signs of what comes next are troubling. Today, the American Chemistry Council (ACC), the plastics industry lobbying organization, released a statement that they intend, either through legislation or litigation, to undo commitments around source reduction and advance chemical recycling operations, which disproportionately impact disadvantaged communities. It is clear from today's ACC statement, that the hope and promise around SB 54 may quickly dissolve into what we have experienced from the plastics industry in the past: deception, blame, and false promises.

Nonetheless, we three petitioners will leave the final decision of the ballot measure up to the State Assembly and Senate. If our elected representatives believe that we can achieve the laudable reforms in SB54 and defend its provisions against industry tactics aimed at maintaining the status quo, we will withdraw the measure once it is signed by Governor Newsom.

However, if the California State Legislature is not convinced that we can implement these plastic pollution reduction reforms, disadvantaged community protections, and conservation programs and they do not pass SB 54, we are ready to take the issue to the voters in November.



Linda Escalante



Caryl Hart, PhD



Michael J. Sangiacomo