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ADDENDUM

Statements from Plaintiffs in Federal Lawsuit Challenging California Recycling Label Law (SB 343)

SACRAMENTO, Calif., March 17, 2026 — The following statements were provided by organizations participating as plaintiffs in the federal lawsuit challenging California’s SB 343.

Agricultural Commodity Organizations

“California farmers work every day to grow and deliver safe, healthy food to families across the state and around the world. Packaging plays a critical role in protecting the freshness, safety, and quality of the fruits, berries, nuts, and other agricultural products consumers rely on. Clear recycling information on that packaging also helps consumers understand how to properly dispose of materials and participate in recycling programs. SB 343 restricts our ability to communicate accurate recycling guidance and creates uncertainty for the packaging used to deliver California-grown food, risking greater consumer confusion and undermining efforts to improve recycling outcomes.”

California Restaurant Association

“Consumers deserve a cost effective way to safely receive food to go in a way that preserves the freshness and safety of food purchased from California’s many varied restaurants. It is also important for consumers to understand how to responsibly recycle the containers used to bring food to their homes and families. SB 343 creates confusion and makes it difficult for our restaurants to provide clear, truthful ways to recycle food containers.”

SNAC International - Snack Industry Association

“Snack food packaging is engineered to protect the safety and freshness of products that millions of California families rely on every day. Our members are invested in recyclable packaging and committed to helping consumers recycle more of it. SB 343 strips that guidance from the package entirely. A law that silences recycling instructions does not protect the environment, it undermines it.”

Californians for Affordable Packaging

“Consumers rely on the food and household products our members provide every day. Those products must be packaged in ways that preserve safety, quality and convenience for families. SB 343 places arbitrary restrictions on our ability to communicate with consumers about how to recycle packaging. An uninformed consumer can cause our entire recycling infrastructure to fail.”

California Grocers Association

“Consumers rely on our members to provide safe, high quality food and other products for their families. Packaging that protects food and preserves quality is essential, along with clear information that helps consumers understand how to recycle packaging. SB 343 creates challenges for providing the straightforward and consistent guidance that consumers need and deserve.”

Dairy Institute of California

“The Dairy Institute and its members provide important, nutritious food products including milk to millions of families in California. Milk cartons provide a safe way to deliver milk to consumers and their families and the cartons are recyclable. SB 343 establishes arbitrary standards that can prevent milk processors from communicating accurate information regarding the proper way to recycle milk cartons. The result could be reduced recycling or changes to more expensive packaging that increase consumer costs.”

California League of Food Producers

“Our members play a key role in providing food products that families rely on every day. Packaging is essential to maintaining food safety and freshness while products move through the supply chain. Consumers need clear and accurate information about how to recycle packaging. SB 343 limits the ability to communicate that information and creates conflicts that could harm recycling efforts.”

Pet Food Institute

“In today’s world, pets are part of our families. Our members are committed to helping dogs and cats live long healthy lives by producing safe, nutritious, and high quality food while providing consumers with accurate information about recycling pet food packaging. SB 343 creates uncertainty for packaging that could lead to unclear recycling guidance or force packaging changes that increase costs and affect product quality.”

Flexible Packaging Association

“Flexible packaging is used for a wide range of consumer goods including food and household products. It helps preserve freshness, protect products and provide convenient packaging solutions for families. SB 343 restricts our ability to provide important recycling information and relies on standards that do not always reflect real world recycling conditions.”

American Forest and Paper Association

“Our members produce paper and cardboard packaging used for a wide variety of consumer products. Paper packaging is widely recycled and our industry continues to invest in innovation that improves recyclability. SB 343 establishes labeling standards that could discourage innovation and limit the ability to provide accurate recycling information to consumers.”

Print Creative Alliance

“Our members create the recycling information and labeling that appear on packaging and help consumers understand how to properly recycle products. SB 343 creates uncertainty around how that information can be communicated and restricts the ability to provide clear recycling guidance.”

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