

May 12, 2026

The Honorable María Elena Durazo
Chair, Senate Local Government Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6630
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1371 (Durazo) – Letter of Concern

Dear Senator Durazo and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the North San Diego Business Chamber, representing the voice of more than 800 regional businesses, associations, nonprofit organizations, and employers across San Diego County, more than 60% of which are small businesses, collectively representing more than 300,000 employees, I write to express concerns regarding SB 1371 relating to solid waste handling services and labor disputes.

The North San Diego Business Chamber recognizes the importance of uninterrupted waste collection services to the health, safety, cleanliness, and operational continuity of California's communities. Reliable sanitation and waste collection services are essential to businesses of all sizes, particularly restaurants, retailers, hospitality businesses, office parks, healthcare-adjacent operations, manufacturers, and commercial centers that depend upon consistent waste removal to safely and effectively serve customers, employees, and the public.

The Chamber also respects the importance of lawful labor activity and recognizes the legitimate public policy interests involved in balancing labor protections with continuity of essential public services.

However, we are concerned that SB 1371 may unintentionally reduce local flexibility in negotiating and managing solid waste service agreements tailored to the unique operational, geographic, financial, and public health needs of individual communities.

As drafted, SB 1371 would invalidate certain existing contractual provisions related to labor-dispute-related service interruptions and prohibit similar provisions in future agreements. This raises concerns regarding local control, contract stability, operational continuity planning, and the potential for increased costs ultimately borne by businesses, ratepayers, and local governments.

The Chamber is particularly concerned about the practical impacts that prolonged service disruptions can create for the business community, including sanitation issues, illegal dumping, pest concerns, blocked access, customer impacts, emergency cleanup costs, and operational disruptions for employers and commercial districts. These impacts can be especially acute for small businesses already operating under significant cost and regulatory pressures.

Additionally, we note that Governor Newsom vetoed similar legislation in 2023, observing that local jurisdictions already possess the ability to negotiate and structure franchise agreements appropriate to their local needs.

The North San Diego Business Chamber's position is grounded in the organization's publicly adopted 2025-2026 Legislative Principles as approved through the Chamber's membership-driven advocacy process. These Legislative Principles are intentionally designed to be non-partisan and apolitical, focusing specifically on policies, legislation, and regulatory proposals through the lens of business impact, economic conditions, operational practicality, workforce implications, and the broader interests of the regional business community rather than political ideology or partisan considerations.

These Legislative Principles are voted upon annually to provide policy guidance reflective of the broader business community and are specifically intended to allow the Chamber to respond consistently and transparently to legislation impacting regional employers and economic conditions.

Specifically, this position is informed by the Chamber's adopted Legislative Principles regarding "Business Licensing, Employment Practices & Regulations" and "Energy, Water & Utilities."

Under "Business Licensing, Employment Practices & Regulations," the Chamber states its opposition to: "Business regulations and licensing procedures, referendums, or initiatives that challenge economic growth and increase obstacles for new businesses and start-ups. Any legislation that negatively impacts small businesses and their workforce."

Under "Energy, Water & Utilities," the Chamber states its opposition to: "Fees, taxes, water/sewer/energy/telecom rates, and regulations that limit business efficiency or growth, unnecessarily burden and/or shift costs to businesses, and/or make it more difficult or costly to provide public or utility services."

Accordingly, while we appreciate the intent behind SB 1371, we respectfully urge continued dialogue and consideration of amendments that would preserve local government flexibility, support continuity of essential sanitation services, and mitigate unintended impacts to businesses, ratepayers, and communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chris Thorne
Chief Executive Officer
North San Diego Business Chamber