



Vote Yes on AB 319 (Stone) – Leash the Lid!

A Simple Solution to Plastic Pollution



What this bill does: Requires that plastic beverage container caps are either attached to the bottle or designed such that the beverage is consumed without removing the cap.

Unleashed, bottle caps cause harm and cost money.

- If we don't reduce plastic litter, by 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish.¹
- Bottle caps and lids are a significant portion of litter on city streets in California.²
- Bottle caps and lids are #3 of the top 10 debris items found on California beaches during Coastal Cleanup Day.³
- Bottle caps kill seabirds. Some die of starvation with stomachs full of plastic, while others die from plastic sharp edges punching holes in internal organs.⁴
- 90% of all seabirds have ingested marine plastic, bottle caps are among the most common types of products ingested.⁵
- Fish ingest degraded plastics that pollute seafood sold in California grocery stores.⁶
- Bottle caps degrade into micro-plastics, polluting inland and coastal waters.⁷
- California taxpayers are paying \$428 million per year to clean up litter on streets, entering storm drains, and polluting beaches.⁸

When leashed, bottle caps get recycled — recyclers want them.

- Tethering the cap to the bottle will decrease the bottle cap and lid litter.
- Bottle caps and lids are typically made from polypropylene (PP), a plastic that can be recycled and has resale value.⁹
- Many plastic recyclers have the technology to sort the polypropylene (#5) caps from the polyethylene terephthalate (PET-#1) bottle.¹⁰

The technology already exists.

- Many variations of tethered caps exist for sports bottles.¹¹

This bill implements existing California policy goals.

- Recycling bottle caps will help California meet its AB 341 75% recycling goal.
- AB 319 implements a recommendation in the February 8th, 2007 California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) resolution on marine debris.
- AB 319 implements a recommendation of the OPC's *Implementation Strategy for Marine Litter*.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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NOTES

- 1 By weight. <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/publications/the-new-plastics-economy-rethinking-the-future-of-plastics>
- 2 It's not just a coastal issue. Litter impacts cities throughout California, like Fresno and Stockton: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/pdf/CTSW-RT-02-021.pdf>
Bottle caps are identified in SF and San Jose Litter studies as a significant component of litter: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/stormwater/MRP/02-2012/Comments/Dart/Staff_Exhibits.pdf,
- 3 Based on 1989-2014 results. <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/history.html>. Caps were 9% of the items collected.
- 4 <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/09/15092-plastic-seabirds-albatross-australia/>
- 5 Wilcox, Chris et al, *Threat of plastic pollution to seabirds is global, pervasive, and increasing*, Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences of the USA, Vol 112, No 36, 11896-11904.
- 6 67% of the seafood sampled from California vendors had plastic in their guts – Rochman, Chelsea, et al, *Anthropogenic debris in seafood: Plastic debris and fibers from textiles in fish and bivalves sold for human consumption*, *Scientific Reports* 5, Article number: 14340 (2015)
- 7 The SF Estuary Institute and Regional Monitoring Program found billions of pieces of micro-plastics in the SF Bay, much of it resulting from breakdown of bottles, bottle caps, and other macro-plastic products. <http://www.sfei.org/projects/microplastic-pollution#sthash.oYf28jji.TbWQfDQr.dpbs>
- 8 https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/oce_13082701a.pdf
- 9 <https://www.plasticsmakeitpossible.com/plastics-recycling/how-to-recycle/at-home/keep-your-top-on/> <https://www.inabottle.it/en/news/recycling-plastic-bottles-now-its-better-cap>
- 10 Since 2010, a water bath float/sink process has emerged that separates the PP cap from the PET bottle material after they are ground. The PET sinks while the PP floats. Because there is value in the PP scrap, many materials recovery facilities (MRFs) are asking consumers to keep the caps on the bottles when they recycle them. There is strong market demand for the PP. <http://www.plasticsnews.com/article/20151028/NEWS/151029867/recycling-group-declares-success-with-caps-on>
- 11 <http://news.apta.com/food-beverage/sport-closures-make-a-difference/>