April 2, 2019

The Honorable Ben Allen
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 317 – Hazardous Waste: waste facilities: prohibited chemicals - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Allen:

On behalf of the California Travel Association, CalTravel, I am writing to support SB 317, which will ban the sale or use of deodorants containing toxic biocides in California, significantly reducing or eliminating the risk of contamination from these products in groundwater.

CalTravel is the umbrella trade association representing the travel, tourism, and hospitality industry. Visitors to California spent $130 billion in 2017, spending that supported over one million jobs. California travelers generated $10.3 billion in state and local taxes in 2017 to support vital public services including police, fire protection, health and homeless services, park maintenance, education and road repair. Our membership is made up of cities, destinations, resorts, amusement parks, sports venues, transportation companies, industry associations, ad agencies, media companies, and other organizations for whom travel and tourism is important.

Many recreational vehicle (RV) owners use chemical deodorants to reduce odors from the blackwater and graywater tanks in their RV. These deodorants contain toxic chemicals, like formaldehyde, which reduce odors by killing the bacteria that live in the tanks and produce the odors in the first place. SB 317 will eliminate this threat to the public and environmental health and water systems by banning these products. Enzymatic and bacterially based alternatives are already commercially available to RV owners. In fact, many of these alternatives are manufactured by the producers of the toxic products. SB 317 will also require RV park owners to post signs informing their customers that the use of these products is prohibited and explaining the threat they pose if used. Similar signs have proven to be effective deterrents against the use of these chemicals.

For these reasons and more, CalTravel supports and urges your “AYE” vote on SB 317.

Sincerely,

Barbara Newton
President & CEO
California Travel Association

cc: The Honorable Anna Caballero, Author
The Honorable Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Gabrielle Meindl, Chief Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Morgan Branch, Republican Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee