



June 18, 2018

The Honorable Bill Quirk
Chair, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
State Capitol, Room 2163
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 998 (Dodd) – Oppose

Dear Chair Quirk:

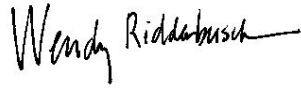
We are writing to express opposition to SB 998 by Sen. Bill Dodd (D-Napa), which would completely change the practice of public water agencies who currently undertake multiple protocols to ensure that water service is discontinued for non-payment only when a customer fails to follow-through with safeguards that are built into the operations and management of water systems. Our water agencies deliver safe, reliable, high-quality and affordable water to customers in a dependable and responsible manner.

This new one-size-fits-all statewide program would be created instead that would among other things prevent service shut-offs for at least 60 days for delinquent customers, create a cap on reconnection fees that may or may not cover the actual cost of these physical reconnections and trigger Prop. 218 concerns for public water agencies, and expand authority to both the State Water Resources Control Board and the Attorney General to enforce provisions of the bill.

Water districts are overseen by their locally-elected boards of directors. They make decisions in their geographic service territories based on what works locally. Water agencies are in the business of delivering water – they don't disconnect delinquent customers without prior substantial engagement. This bill is unnecessary and appears to be a solution in search of a problem that does not currently exist in California.

For these reasons, we oppose SB 998 and respectfully request your "no" vote when the bill is heard in Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on June 26, 2018.

Sincerely,



Wendy Ridderbusch
Director of State Legislative Relations
Association of California Water Agencies



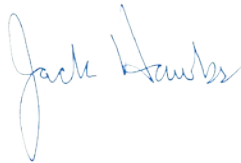
Rylan Gervase
Legislative Representative
California Special Districts Association



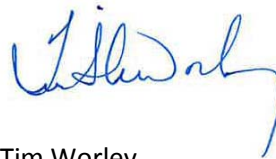
Erin Evans-Fudem
Legislative Representative
League of California Cities



Danielle Blacet
Director for Water
California Municipal Utilities Association



Jack Hawks
Executive Director
California Water Association



Tim Worley
Executive Director
American Water Works Association
California-Nevada Section

WR:ka

cc: The Honorable Bill Dodd
Members, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
John Kennedy, Assembly Republican Caucus
Josh Tooker, Consultant, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee