September 5, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 954 (Chiu) Food labeling: quality and Safety Dates.
City of Beverly Hills – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Lara:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to you in SUPPORT to AB 954 (Chiu), which would help reduce food waste throughout the state.

Current food date labels are often unclear and surprisingly unregulated. AB 954 (Chiu) would bring clarity to consumers by authorizing the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the Department of Public Health to promote uniform labeling to better educate consumers.

This bill seeks to increase uniformity in food labeling by encouraging food manufacturers, processors, and retailers to voluntarily use the terms “use by” and “best by” to inform customers of a food’s quality and safety, in lieu of “sell by” dates. These terms have already been voluntarily adopted by the industry and would provide consumers with greater understanding regarding the quality and safety of their food.

This bill would help reduce consumer confusion and unnecessary food waste. For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills SUPPORTS AB 954 (Chiu). Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Lili Bosse
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable David Chiu, 17th Assembly District
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
Andrew K. Antwi, Shaw / Yoder / Antwi, Inc.