



April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

**Senate Transportation Committee**  
State Capitol, Room 405  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Letter of Support for SB 1218 — Delinquent Illegal Dumping Citations**

On behalf of the Downtown Oakland Partnership, we write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 1218, which establishes an accountability mechanism for illegal dumping by requiring the California Department of Motor Vehicles to deny vehicle registration renewal for individuals with outstanding illegal dumping fines.

The Downtown Oakland Partnership is committed to maintaining a clean, safe, and welcoming environment that supports residents, businesses, and visitors. Illegal dumping continues to pose a significant public health, environmental, and economic challenge, undermining these efforts and placing an ongoing strain on local resources. Despite enhanced cleaning and maintenance efforts across downtown, current enforcement tools remain insufficient to deter repeat violations or ensure accountability.

Between 2021 and 2024, the City of Oakland issued nearly 3,000 illegal dumping citations totaling approximately \$1.3 million in assessed fines, yet collected only about \$109,000, roughly eleven cents on the dollar. In the past year alone, Oakland received more than 25,000 dumping complaints, and city crews removed approximately 15 million pounds of waste at significant public expense. Without meaningful and enforceable consequences, illegal dumping persists, and the burden continues to fall on businesses, property owners, residents, and the City.

SB 1218 offers a straightforward and proven solution by building on an existing enforcement mechanism used for unpaid parking citations. By linking unpaid illegal dumping fines to vehicle registration holds, the bill creates a clear and enforceable consequence that will improve compliance, deter repeat violations, and reduce the financial and operational burden on local governments. Importantly, this approach leverages an existing system, requiring no new infrastructure, no new agency, and minimal additional public expenditure. This legislation aligns with local enforcement efforts currently advancing through the Oakland City Council to strengthen illegal dumping accountability.

The Downtown Oakland Partnership remains committed to working alongside partners to advance solutions that strengthen the broader Oakland community. We support the equitable and strategic implementation of SB 1218 to help build a cleaner, safer, and more resilient city.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Downtown Oakland Partnership