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August 23, 2017

The Honorable Lorena S. Gonzalez Fletcher
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SB 623 (Monning) – **SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Fletcher and Committee Members,

As businesses depending on a reliable, good quality source of water in California for both our operations and for the communities where our employees and customers live, we, the undersigned, **strongly support Senate Bill 623**. This bill will help provide the resources and oversight needed to ensure safe and affordable drinking water supplies throughout California.

All Californians have a basic right to safe and affordable drinking water. Yet, recent State Water Resources Control Board data identified roughly 300 California public water systems currently out of compliance with drinking water standards. Some of them have been unable to provide safe drinking water for multiple years. This is unacceptable.

The proposed Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund would provide both interim drinking water supplies and fund longer-term drinking water solutions, including the costs of operating and maintaining water treatment facilities in low-income communities currently served water not meeting standards.

Our businesses are active members of the community. We employ large numbers of Californians and our customer base extends throughout the state. We believe that the business sector can be part of the solution to ensure access to safe drinking water for all Californians. Thus, we support in concept amendments being contemplated that develop a statewide user fee with a monthly cap (~\$10 per user) with affordability criteria and an agricultural fee to generate up to approximately \$140 million per year.

We strongly urge your support of this critical issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Clif Bar – Emeryville, CA
Driscoll's – Watsonville, CA
EILEEN FISHER – Irvington, NY
Gap Inc. – San Francisco, CA

PepsiCo, Inc. – Purchase, NY
Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. – Chico, CA
The Coca-Cola Company – Atlanta, GA

