

1 [Supporting Assembly Bill 1504 (Stone) - Single-use Filter Cigarettes]

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3 **Resolution supporting passage of California Assembly Bill 1504, authored by**
4 **Assemblymember Stone, which helps prevent the environmental harm and cost to**
5 **state and local governments caused by the improper disposal of cigarette butts by**
6 **prohibiting single-use plastic ‘filters’ in cigarettes sold in California.**

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8 WHEREAS, Toxic single-use plastic cigarette butts end up in our marine and urban
9 environments where they may be ingested by children or wildlife, contaminate fragile
10 ecosystems, and cost local governments taxpayer dollars; and

11 WHEREAS, As a result of the litter, cigarette butts remain as the single most collected
12 item of trash collected by volunteer groups and organizations that conduct parks, rivers and
13 beach cleanup events; and

14 WHEREAS, Existing strict anti-litter laws, which include a fine of up to \$1,000 and a
15 mandatory order to clean up litter for no less than eight hours for a first time infraction, have
16 done little to prevent the litter of cigarette butts; and

17 WHEREAS, From 2006 to 2008, the American Association of Poison Control Centers
18 reported approximately 12,600 cases of children ingesting cigarettes or cigarette butts,
19 especially children under six years of age 7; and

20 WHEREAS, According to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration’s Office of
21 Response and Restoration, it is common for fish, birds and other animals that ingest plastic
22 waste like cigarette butts to starve to death as a result of a false feeling of satiation from the
23 plastic in the cigarette butt; and

24 WHEREAS, Reports from the Surgeon General and the US Department of Health and
25 Human Services point to the ineffectiveness of the ‘filters’ at reducing harm to smokers; and

1 WHEREAS, Though filtered brands currently constitute over 90% of the entire cigarette
2 market, as early as the mid-1960s the Surgeon General judged cigarette filters to be useless
3 in reducing harm to the average smoker; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2010, a team of investigators from the USA and Japan asserted in the
5 *International Journal of Cancer* that “the shift from non-filter to filter cigarettes appears to have
6 merely altered the most frequent type of lung cancer, from squamous cell carcinoma to
7 adenocarcinoma”; and

8 WHEREAS, There is still no compelling evidence that cigarette filters have done
9 anything to mitigate other health hazards of smoking such as heart disease; and

10 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco reports expenditures above \$6
11 million a year for cigarette butt abatement; and

12 WHEREAS, The California Department of Transportation reports that it spends around
13 \$41 million per year in litter abatement on our highways, of which cigarette butts are the
14 number one littered item; and

15 WHEREAS, The state of California is able to restrict the sale of certain tobacco
16 products; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports Assembly Bill
18 1504, aimed at keeping toxic cigarette waste from littering our state, our communities, and our
19 city; and

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors forward a copy of
21 this resolution to California Assemblymember Mark Stone with a request he take all action
22 necessary to achieve the objectives of this resolution.