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REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 30



FACT SHEET: SB 1187 – [Circular Fashion]

IN BRIEF

Senate Bill 1187 creates a pilot program in Los Angeles and Ventura to recycle textile in the fashion industry. The ultimate goal is to make the fashion industry sustainable by reducing waste, recycling and reusing resources, and apply a circular economy thinking to the industry.

BACKGROUND & PROBLEM

Fashion comes at a huge cost to disadvantaged communities, people and the ecosystem, from water pollution to toxic chemical use, the clothes and accessories we wear harm our world.

The fashion industry is the third-largest manufacturing sector in the world, after the automobile and technology industries. As of 2018, it is valued at more than 2.5 trillion dollars and employs over 75 million people worldwide.

As of 2020, there are 50 global companies, within fashion, retail and textile chain, that have committed to the science-based targets of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. As a contributor to climate change, these companies are aware of the challenges facing the industry, including greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), overproduction and wastage.

Between 2000 and 2014, clothing production doubled with the average consumer buying 60 percent more pieces of garment compared to 15 years ago. Yet, each clothing item is now kept half as long. The industry has truly entered the era of “fast fashion”.

Research shows that the fashion sector was responsible for some 2.1 billion metric tons of GHGs in 2018, about 4 percent of the global total. To set that in context, the fashion industry emits about the same quantity of GHGs per year as the entire economies of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom combined.

The United Nations on Climate Change reported that to make just one pair of denim jeans, 10,000 liters of water is required to just grow the one kilo of cotton needed for the pair of jeans. In comparison, one person would take 10 years to drink 10,000 liters of water.

The average consumer is now purchasing 60% more items of clothing than 20 years ago. This comes at a huge cost: 20% of global wastewater comes from the production of garments, while cotton farming is responsible for nearly a quarter of the world’s insecticides. About 85% of textiles are sent to landfills or incinerators, and incredibly 60% of textiles are thrown away within a year of being made. As more people buy more clothes increasingly our oceans are impacted, affecting life below water.

The fashion industry has been facing a growing set of sustainability concerns in recent years, from the unsustainable use of natural resources and excessive waste production to the social impacts of outsourcing most of its manufacturing and production to the developing world. An increasing number of consumers have been demanding more transparency as to where and how their clothing and footwear are being produced.

SOLUTION

SB 1187 creates a pilot program with a public private partnership in the fashion industry to design recyclability strategies, collect and resell used garments, promote and educate the use of recycled post-consumer textile fibers.

The goal is ensure that the fashion industry of the future will be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

SB 1187 will develop best practices in the fashion industry to reduce carbon emissions is key to limiting warming to as close to 1.5°C above pre-Industrial Revolution levels, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.



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SUPPORT

- California Product Stewardship Council
- Californians Against Waste
- CBU Productions
- Coyuchi
- Fashion Revolution USA
- Fibershed
- Gap, Inc.
- Goodwill Industries of San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin Counties
- Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force
- Lymi, Inc. DBA Reformation
- Regenerated Textile Industries, LLC

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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