

COUNCIL ON RECYCLING

c/o Recycling and Solid Waste Section
Bureau of Waste & Materials Management
Department of Natural Resources
Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707
608/266-5334

April 22, 2009

The Honorable Jim Doyle
Governor, State of Wisconsin
115 East
State Capitol
PO Box 7863
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Governor Doyle:

We are writing to provide our support for legislation on electronic scrap, both to encourage its recycling and ban it from landfills and incinerators.

In 2000, the Council recognized that the disposal of electronics (specifically computers, computer peripherals and televisions) was becoming a significant issue for municipalities, the business community and individuals. The Council created a task force to research this issue. The task force included representatives of municipalities, recyclers, businesses, trade associations and individuals. The task force met 12 times over a 19-month period. The task force found concerns by individuals and professionals involved in this area about the toxic properties of these electronics. These products contain hazardous materials such as lead, hexavalent chromium and brominated flame-retardants. The health and environmental problems associated with these materials are well known. It is estimated that there were 1.9 million computer systems and 5.2 million televisions in Wisconsin in 2001, with the number expected to increase each year. Consumers want to recycle, but often they were not able to find cost-effective or convenient options.

In late 2002, the Council made a set of recommendations, which it sent to you and several state agencies in early 2003. While some of those recommendations have been implemented, the establishment of a program for the collection and recycling of electronics set up as a responsibility of the manufacturers has not been fully implemented, nor has there been a ban on the disposal of these products from landfills and incinerators.

More recently, the Governor's Council on Waste Reduction and Disposal made recommendations similar to those of the Council for the establishment of an electronics recycling program led by the manufacturers, and for a landfill and incineration ban.

We respectfully ask for your support and encouragement of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

John Reindl
Chair

cc: Senator Mark Miller, lead sponsor and chair, Senate Committee on Environment
DNR Secretary Matt Frank
Dept of Commerce Secretary Dick Leinenkugel
Senator Fred Risser, Senate President
Representative Michael Sheridan, Speaker of the Assembly
Representative Spencer Black, Chair, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources