March 30, 2011

Governor Scott Walker
115 East, State capitol
Madison, WI 53701

Dear Governor Walker:

On behalf of the members of the Council on Recycling, I am very pleased to send you the enclosed copy of the Council on Recycling 2010 Annual Report. Even though the report is no longer required, the Council feels it is important to report the past years accomplishments and our goals for the future.

The Council saw several measures that it has been supporting for many years take shape in 2010.

Computers, Televisions and other Electronic Devices (E-waste)

The Council had made this issue a priority for many years and Council members were pleased that implementation of the 2009 Wisconsin Act 50 had begun so smoothly and with such a high degree of compliance. In fact, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources won an award from the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin for their effective implementation of the law. This legislation appears to be a great job creator as well as a boon to the environment, with millions of pounds of electronics processed and recycled back into the marketplace instead of being wasted. The E-Cycle Wisconsin program achieves its results through a Product Stewardship model, relieving the public sector from bearing the full financial burden of responsibly managing e-waste.

Mercury in Products

The Council has strongly supported a ban on mercury in products since the Council’s inception in 1991. The recent Wisconsin ban adds to the growing state and national efforts to restrict the use of mercury wherever and whenever a reasonable substitute can be found.

Paper

Under the leadership of a Council committee, the de facto standards for recycling compatible adhesives were developed in Wisconsin. Avery Corporation is the first major label maker that the Council knows of that has introduced a set of labels that meets the new standards. Standards that increase the recyclability of paper products aid Wisconsin’s strong paper mill industry by helping improve the quality of recycled feedstock available to consume.
Used Oil Filters and Absorbents
The Council was deeply involved in the twelve-year effort to ban used oil filters and absorbents from landfills in Wisconsin. The ban took effect on January 1, 2011.

Other Activities and Public Input
Through its public meetings, the Council heard from a wide range of people and organizations interested in recycling issues in Wisconsin. Those issues included support for: adequate DNR staffing and budget; Recycling Fund use for recycling related activities; funding clean sweep programs (household hazardous waste collection); compost rules changes to facilitate greater recovery of organic materials; recycling of construction and demolition waste; organic stability rules; safe pharmaceutical disposal; the recommendations of the Governor’s Task Force on Waste Materials Recovery and Disposal.

Priorities in 2011
The main priorities for 2011 include:
- Ensuring that effective recycling is funded sustainably
- Supporting legislation recommended by the Single Use Plastic committee
- Implementing the recommendations of the Governor’s Task Force on Waste Materials Recovery and Disposal

The Council is particularly concerned about the sustainability of local recycling programs in light of proposed changes considered for the next biennial state budget. The current funding model relies on a portion of the recycling fees paid on waste disposal to provide the local cost share out of a segregated fund. This model has served the state and its communities well, as the state cost-share of local collection programs reflects the many economic, environmental and land use benefits that accrue to the state as a whole through recycling. The Council believes that the continuation of local recycling programs should be a strong State priority when considering any alterations to the current funding system.

We welcome any opportunity to work with you to fulfill our advisory role and responsibility by providing our assistance and expertise towards recycling policy development in the state. The Council looks forward to continuing to engage the recycling community, local governments, state agencies and the public in promoting recycling and making a difference for Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Rick Meyers
Chair- Council on Recycling

| Sen. Fitzgerald | Rep. Fitzgerald | Secretary Stepp |
| Sen. Grothman | Rep. Suder | Secretary Huebsch |
| Sen. Darling | Rep. Vos | Secretary Brancel |
| Sen. Miller | Rep. Barca | Secretary Jadin |