

Wisconsin Council on Recycling

To: Members of the State Assembly and State Senate

From: Wisconsin Council on Recycling

Date: August 10, 2016

RE: Support of Restoration of Recycling Funds

The Council on Recycling supports the restoration of the recycling funds for the purpose of increased recycling and recovery of valuable resources. The State of Wisconsin requires local governments to coordinate the provision of residential recycling and yard waste recovery services and to conduct education, enforcement and assistance to reduce waste and recover resources. Since the costs are borne at the local level while resource recovery accrues benefits broadly to the state's environment and economy, the State of Wisconsin provides recycling aid to offset a portion of the local costs.

- The State of Wisconsin still collects the \$7 per ton "recycling fee" at landfills but instead of using this fee for its intended purpose, recycling programs, it has been diverted to other programs.
- The steep decline in state aid has come without any corresponding decline in the Recycling Fee collected by the State on solid waste tons disposed in landfills. The Legislative Fiscal Bureau projected the \$7/ton Recycling Fee to generate over \$34 million in each year of the biennial budget, an increase over the past two years.
- The Council on Recycling supports restoring these funds to assist in local recycling programs Responsible Units recycling grants or other such grants to assist recycling.
- Moreover, the Council on Recycling supports using these funds for recycling initiatives. The Recycling Fee in its name shows the purpose of the fee. We encourage the use of these funds to reflect that.
- The Council on Recycling would strongly recommend that the Recycling Fee be utilized for recycling initiatives. There are many programs, businesses and nonprofits that could benefit through the use of these funds in loan or grant form. By utilizing these funds to help these programs and organizations the State of Wisconsin can help to grow recycling and consequently business.
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We ask that this budget restore all the collected "recycling fees" for use in local recycling programs. Recycling is something that has broad support from citizens, business and nonprofits. It is time we return these funds for their intended use: Increasing recycling so we can help protect our environment while supplying business materials to grow our economy.

For more information please contact:

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The Wisconsin Council on Recycling, authorized in s. 287.22, Wis. Stats., is a citizens group, appointed by the governor, to advise the governor, Legislature and state agencies on solid waste reduction, recovery and recycling policy. Current members include individuals representing industry, business, non-profit organizations and local units of government.