Michigan Waste Industries Association

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX • PHONE 517-484-6561
124 W. Allegan, Suite 1900 • Lansing MI 48933

June 1, 2011

Honorable Roger Kahn, M.D.
S-324 Capitol Building
Lansing MI 48909

Dear Senator Kahn:

The Michigan Waste Industries Association (MWIA) supports the recently passed Department of Environmental Quality 2011 budget with the declared commitment to identify a long-term, sustainable, and equitable funding source for the solid waste management fund providing resources for activities of the Environmental Resource Management Division. MWIA supports implementation legislation for this budget provided it limits the solid waste surcharge increase to $.05 and includes a two year sunset provision.

Additionally, at the appropriate time in the implementation bill process, MWIA will be offering clarifying language to the statute related to who can be requested to pay the solid waste surcharge. This will be a simple, legally substantiated change of the word "may" to "shall" in section 324.11525 of Act 451 of 1994.

As the primary resource for the management of waste in our state the members of MWIA value the Department's mission to ***Protect Michigan's Environment, Ensuring Michigan's Future***. Our members recognize the importance of the services made available from the solid waste surcharge. The vast majority of these funds are expected to be collected by our members at a cost to our customers. This is a concerning fact we have not overlooked. However, we find this budget proposal to be a reasonable combination of solutions—providing for immediate funding needs and developing a better plan for the future.

MWIA is a nonprofit consortium composed of Michigan-based companies who are involved in the collection, processing, recycling and disposal of solid waste. Members include neighborhood waste haulers, regional landfill operators and managers and environmental engineering firms working together to ensure that solid waste is handled in a way that is both efficient and environmentally sound.

We appreciate your consideration of our position. If you have questions or require further information please contact our legislative counsel Adrian Cazal at 517-484-8800.

Sincerely,

Tonia M. Olson
President
Michigan Waste Industries Association

cc: Members of the Michigan Senate

Printed on Recycled Paper