

**Testimony to the Senate Natural Resources Committee
In Support of Senate Bill 507
By Michigan Waste & Recycling Association
November 4, 2015**

Chairman Casperson and committee members, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present our position of support for Senate Bill 507. My name is Tonia Olson. I am here on behalf of the Michigan Waste & Recycling Association. Our association represents businesses and municipalities that provide waste- and recycling-related services. We advocate for safe, economically sustainable and environmentally sound waste hauling, disposal, recycling, composting and landfill gas-to-energy programs.

In April 2014, Governor Snyder announced a plan designed to increase recycling statewide. A reliable measurement, tracking and reporting system was identified as the first component required for a comprehensive statewide recycling program.

Senate Bill 507 is the first step to increasing Michigan's recycling rate. It creates a simple method of reporting to allow for an annual calculation of the rate of statewide recycling while protecting the confidential nature of the information and the sources providing the information.

The Michigan Waste and Recycling Association (MWRA) initiated the discussion on recycling reporting and worked with numerous stakeholders to help bring this legislation forward.

We view this legislation as an opportunity to gain actual rather than extrapolated data that will provide a more complete understanding of the recycling rate for the state. This will allow public policy decisions using state resources to be based on accurate information.

The Michigan Waste & Recycling Association encourages your support of Senate Bill 507.

SUPPORT SENATE BILL 507

The first step to increasing Michigan's Recycling Rate

Senate Bill 507 creates a **simple** method of **reporting** to allow for an annual calculation of the rate of **state-wide** recycling. Currently, there are no state requirements related to recycling reporting.



According to the Michigan Recycling Index, a study of *extrapolated* data based on interviews and questionnaires conducted in 2014, Michigan achieved an estimated MSW recycling rate of 15 percent in 2013. The national average is 35 percent.

Senate Bill 507 is sponsored by Senator Mike Green (primary), Senator Wayne A. Schmidt, Senator Margaret O'Brien, Senator Jack Brandenburg, Senator Rebekah Warren, Senator Judy K. Emmons, Senator Phil Pavlov, Senator Mike Kowall, Senator Tonya Schuitmaker, Senator Peter MacGregor and Senator Dale Zorn

Senate Bill 507

- Creates Part 175: Recycling Reporting
- Defines "recycling," "recycling establishment" and "reportable recyclable material"
- Establishes annual registration for recycling establishments
- Establishes a reporting process for recycling establishments
 - Amount of reportable recyclable materials received and shipped
 - Reported by category: glass, paper, plastic, metal, textiles or single-stream
- Provides exemptions
 - Iron, steel or nonferrous metals managed by person subject to Scrap Metal Regulatory Act
 - Materials from shredding or dismantling of motor vehicles
 - Beneficial use under Part 115
 - E-waste under Part 173
 - Recycling establishments managing less than 100 tons per year.
- Allows aggregate reports from multiple recycling establishments
- Establishes reporting guidelines to minimize double counting
- Confidential data protected from FOIA
- DEQ to report annually to legislature



SUPPORT SENATE BILL 507

The first step to increasing Michigan's Recycling Rate

The data gained from this new reporting will provide a more complete understanding of the recycling rate for the state, thus allowing public policy decisions using state resources to be based on accurate information.

—Tonia Olson, Legislative Chair Michigan Waste & Recycling Association

The following organizations **support** and **encourage adoption** of **Senate Bill 507**:

- Advanced Disposal
- Carton Council
- Glass Recyclers Ltd.
- Golder Associates
- Granger
- ISRI-MI Chapter
- Landfill Management Company
- Michigan Association of Counties
- Michigan Food & Beverage Association (MFBA)
- Michigan Grocers Association
- Michigan Recycling Coalition
- Michigan Recycling Partnership (MRP)
- Michigan Soft Drink Association
- Michigan Townships Association
- Michigan Waste & Recycling Association (MWRA)
- NTH Consultants, Ltd.
- Pitsch Sanitary Landfill
- Recycle Livingston, Inc.
- Republic Services
- Resource Recycling Systems, Inc.
- Tetra Pak Inc.
- Waste Management
- West Michigan Environmental Action Council





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 24, 2015

Contact: Tonia Olson
517-371-9720
tolson@grangernet.com

The Michigan Waste and Recycling Association (MWRA) introduces bill to better measure recycling rate

Senator Mike Green sponsors Senate Bill 507 that will improve methodology for state-wide recycling reporting

Lansing MI – The Michigan Waste and Recycling Association (MWRA) is pleased to announce the introduction of Senate Bill 507 by the honorable Senator Mike Green. Senate Bill 507 creates a simple method of reporting to allow for an annual calculation of the rate of state-wide recycling. Currently, there are no state requirements related to recycling reporting. This bill would provide for an accurate account of statewide recycling activities in a standard, consistent and simple format.

“The data gained from this new reporting will provide a more complete understanding of the recycling rate for the state, thus allowing public policy decisions using state resources to be based on accurate information,” said Tonia Olson, legislative chair for MWRA and Director of Governmental and Community Relations for Granger. Olson also serves as a member of the Governor’s Recycling Advisory Council, a group that supports and encourages adoption of the legislation.

In April 2014, Governor Snyder announced a plan designed to increase recycling statewide. A reliable measurement, tracking and reporting system was identified as the first component required for a comprehensive statewide recycling program. Senate Bill 507 addresses this first component to move recycling forward in Michigan.

According to the Michigan Recycling Index, a study of extrapolated data based on interviews and questionnaires conducted in 2014, Michigan achieved an estimated MSW recycling rate of 15 percent in 2013. The national average is 35 percent.

MWRA advocates for safe, economically sustainable and environmentally sound waste hauling, disposal, recycling, composting and landfill gas-to-energy programs. Its members conduct business throughout Michigan, and include companies and communities that collect and manage trash, recycling and yard waste; equipment manufacturers and distributors; and a variety of related service providers.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 2, 2015

Contact: Tonia Olson
517-371-9720
tolson@grangernet.com

Hearing on recycling bill to be held this Wednesday

Lansing, MI—The Michigan Senate Natural Resources Committee is scheduled to hear testimony on Senate Bill 507 on Wednesday, November 4, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 210 of the Farnum Building in Lansing.

Senate Bill 507 creates a simple method of reporting to allow for an annual calculation of the rate of state-wide recycling. Currently, there are no state requirements related to recycling reporting. This bill would provide for an accurate account of statewide recycling activities in a standard, consistent and simple format.

The Michigan Waste and Recycling Association (MWRA) initiated the discussion on recycling reporting and worked with numerous stakeholders to help bring this legislation forward. MWRA supports Senate Bill 507.

“We appreciate Senator Green sponsoring Senate Bill 507 to create a reporting system for businesses engaged in recycling. This is an important first step to increasing Michigan’s recycling rate,” said Tonia Olson, legislative chair for MWRA and director of governmental and community relations for Granger. Olson also serves as a member of the Governor’s Recycling Advisory Council, a group that supports and encourages adoption of the legislation.

In April 2014, Governor Snyder announced a plan designed to increase recycling statewide. A reliable measurement, tracking and reporting system was identified as the first component required for a comprehensive statewide recycling program.

According to the Michigan Recycling Index, a study of extrapolated data based on interviews and questionnaires conducted in 2014, Michigan achieved an estimated municipal solid waste recycling rate of 15 percent in 2013. The national average is 35 percent.

MWRA advocates for safe, economically sustainable and environmentally sound waste hauling, disposal, recycling, composting and landfill gas-to-energy programs. Its members conduct business throughout Michigan, and include companies and communities that collect and manage trash, recycling and yard waste; equipment manufacturers and distributors; and a variety of related service providers.

###



Michigan Waste & Recycling Association

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

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Honorable Tom Casperson
Natural Resources Committee Chair
Michigan State Senate
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chairman Casperson,

The Michigan Waste and Recycling Association (MWRA) supports Senate Bill 507, introduced by Senator Mike Green. If passed, this legislation would provide for an accurate account of statewide recycling activities in a standard, consistent and simple format.

The members of MWRA are proud to have initiated this legislation and to have played a leadership role in its development. **We urge you to support SB 507.**

This legislation creates a simple method of reporting to allow for an annual calculation of the rate of recycling while protecting the confidential nature of recyclables commodity data. As a result of this legislation, a more complete understanding of the recycling rate for the state is expected. And, in turn, the availability of more comprehensive data will allow for the advancement of sound public policy to put state resources to the best use.

As a result of SB 507, we will have a reliable measurement, tracking and reporting system, the elements identified by Governor Snyder as the first component required for a comprehensive statewide recycling program.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Sincerely,

Michigan Waste & Recycling Association

Tonia Olson
Legislative Committee Chair