



March 24, 2011

Governor Walker
Members of Wisconsin Assembly and Senate
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

RE: AB-40/SB-27 Proposed Budget Bill- Recycling

Dear Governor Walker and State Legislators,

As municipal and county governments, businesses, non-profit and trade associations in Wisconsin, we urge you to **reconsider the elimination of the requirement that a municipality or county operate a recycling program to manage solid waste in compliance with the disposal restrictions, and the elimination of the financial assistance for local government recycling programs in the proposed Budget Bill.** Wisconsin's comprehensive recycling law has broad support from the public, waste/recycling haulers, businesses and non-profit groups and creates great economic value to the state.

The proposed budget cuts related to recycling would exacerbate other revenue shortfalls in local government budgets. **Responsible Unit recycling grants have been funded by the Recycling and Renewable Energy Fund, a segregated fund created specifically for this purpose.** When the law passed, the state made a promise to communities that cost sharing would be returned to operate local recycling programs. **The proposed budget would still collect the \$7 per ton "recycling fee" at the landfill, but it would not allocate any of it to local recycling programs.**

A recently released white paper, "Recycling Means Business: The Critical Link between Wisconsin's Economic Growth and Recycling" outlines how Wisconsin's recycling infrastructure - from collection to processing to manufacturing - is successful and well established. **Changes impacting that infrastructure should be thoughtful and well-planned so that the material supply chain to manufacturers is not disrupted.** The economic benefits accrued to the state through recycling will be significantly reduced if local systems for collecting approximately 400,000 tons per year of recyclables from Wisconsin residences are cut back or eliminated.

We understand that there is a budget crisis, but we believe that it would be counterproductive to jeopardize programs that reduce waste and provide economic development by returning resources to the economy, providing jobs, and collecting and processing valuable feedstock for industries to help them remain competitive. **Residential recycling is funded primarily at the local level, with the State's cost share consisting of less than 30% of local costs on average.** Many of the economic and environmental benefits of recycling are reaped by the state as a whole. Thus the State cost share and recycling program mandates represent a fair and prudent policy to ensure that resources are recovered to the benefit of businesses and residents of Wisconsin.

In conclusion, we, the undersigned, **request a reinstatement of recycling grants to communities in AB-40/SB-27, the Governor's proposed Fiscal Year 2012-2013 State Budget, at a funding level consistent with the last state budget.** We are willing to assist if

alternative funding models to sustain recycling programs into the future are desired, but the State needs to allow adequate time to develop and phase in alternative funding sources. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss and evaluate Wisconsin's recycling infrastructure with you. **We can offer the technical and practical experience to help guide sound materials management policy, the ability to coordinate increased efficiency, and the willingness to participate to strengthen the economy of our great state.**

Sincerely,

1. *Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW)*
2. *Solid Waste Association of North America- Badger Chapter (SWANA-Badger Chapter)*
3. *Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Management Association (WCSWMA)*
4. *Wisconsin Council on Recycling*
5. Adams County Solid Waste Committee, Myrna Diemert, SW Director/Recycling Coordinator
6. Adventure Fit, Talisa Gula-Yeast
7. Appleton Solar, LLC, Ingrid Nahm, Co-Owner
8. BIOFerm Energy Systems, Caroline Chappell
9. BRB Recycling Authority, Chris Bardon, Manager
10. Brown County, Mark Walter, Facility Manager & Recycling Coordinator
11. BTR Services & Products, Bill Tarman Ramcheck, PhD
12. Buffalo County Recycling, Stephen Schiffli
13. C. Beimborn Consulting, Chris Beimborn
14. Carton Council, Jim Birmingham
15. Cascade Asset Management, Neil Peters-Michaud, CEO
16. Catral Doyle Creative Co., Susan Catral, owner/partner
17. Chippewa County, Land Conservation & Forest Management, Dan Masterpole, County Conservationist
18. City of Bloomer Recycle Center
19. City of Chippewa Falls, Lynne Bauer, Finance Manager
20. City of Colby, Connie Gurtner, Clerk/Treasurer
21. City of De Pere, Scott Thoresen, P.E., Director of Public Works
22. City of Dodgeville, Daniel Meuer, Alderperson
23. City of Edgerton, Christopher Lund, Mayor
24. City of Elroy, Justin Sornsins, City Administrator
25. City of Fennimore, Margaret A. Sprague
26. City of Loyal, Shannon Toufar
27. City of Mayville, Kathie Wild Comptroller/Treasurer
28. City of Milwaukee
29. City of Monroe Streets and Sanitation Department, Thomas J. Boll
30. City of Neenah
31. City of New Holstein, Cassandra Langenfeld, Clerk/Treasurer
32. City of Omro, Linda K. Kutchenritter, City Administrator
33. City of Pittsville, Jeffrey Masephol, Mayor
34. City of Plymouth, William Immich, Director of Public Works
35. City of Racine, Thomas Eeg, Interim Commissioner of Public Works
36. City of Superior, Diane R. Nelson, Environmental Services Project/Program Coordinator
37. City of Watertown, Richard Schultz, Street Superintendent
38. City of Waukesha, Lori S. Curtis Luther
39. City of Whitehall, Tina Kay Nelson, Administrator
40. City of Whitewater, Dean Fischer, Public Works Director

41. Clean Wisconsin
42. Crawford County
43. CRI Recycling Service, Inc., Joe Mattson, VP Sales & Marketing
44. Dane County Solid Waste Division, John Welch, Recycling Manager/Project Manager
45. Douglas County, Mary Klun, Recycling Coordinator
46. Douglas County Land & Water Conservation Department, Christine Ostern
47. Dunn County Solid Waste Division, George Hayducsko
48. Eleva & Albion Garbage & Recycling, Larry Drangstveit
49. Foyer Enviro Services, Inc., Eric Bauer, President
50. Good News Project, Inc., Thomas Fladland
51. Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Megan Thiel
52. Habitat for Humanity/Outagamie Co, Diane M. Angeletti, Volunteer and Special Events Manager
53. Iron County Recycling Committee
54. J.R.'s Advanced Recyclers, Mike Larson
55. Jackson County Recycling Program
56. Jefferson County Solid Waste/Air Quality, Sharon Ehrhardt, Program Assistant
57. Joint Rib Lake Area Recycling, Dawn Swenson
58. Juneau County Public Works, Dennis Weiss, Public Works Director
59. La Crosse County Solid Waste Department
60. Lac du Flambeau Band of Superior Chippewa Indians, Dee Ann Mayo
61. Madison Audubon Society
62. Manitowoc County Recycling Center, Jon Reisenbuechler, Operations Manager, Mark Jacobs, Production Manager
63. Marathon County Solid Waste Department
64. Mercury Free Wisconsin
65. Midwest Iron & Metal Co., Inc, Harry I. Pelman
66. Milwaukee Riverkeeper
67. Mosquito Hill Nature Center, Steve Petznick, Naturalist
68. MPC (Materials Processing Corp), Todd Schachtman
69. Mt. Hope Township, Lois Ellis, Clerk
70. Oneida County Solid Waste Department, Charlie Evenhouse, Director
71. Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
72. Paolo Verde Consulting Services, Paul Abramson
73. Pepin County Recycling/Solid Waste Department, Terry J. Mesch
74. Polk County Recycling, Michael Voltz, Plant Manager
75. Recyclebank, John Getzloff, Director of Sales
76. Recycleworlds Consulting, Peter Anderson, President
77. Recycling Association of Minnesota
78. Recycling Connections Corporation, Karin Sieg, Executive Director
79. Recycling Services, Inc., Mia Stein-Kodzic
80. Redemann Creative, Dave Redemann
81. Rehrig Pacific Company, Jordan Lance
82. RENEW Wisconsin
83. River Alliance of Wisconsin
84. Rusk County Recycling, Charmaine Johnson, Recycling Coordinator
85. Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter
86. Staples Marketing, Danny Mager, Principal – Marketing Director
87. Steel Recycling Institute, David Keeling
88. Strategic Materials, Inc., David T. Hudson, Vice President of Government Affairs
89. Taylor County Solid Waste & Recycling, Lawrence G. Peterson

90. Town of Amberg Board Members
91. Town of Barnes, Elaine Brustad, Clerk
92. Town of Bass Lake, Justin Hall, Chairman
93. Town of Belmont, Donovan Kamps, Clerk
94. Town of Cassville, Lori Wood, Clerk
95. Town of Cooks Valley, Victoria Trinko, Town Clerk
96. Town of Cross Plains, Vera M. Riley
97. Town of Delton, Marvin Giebel, Chairman
98. Town of Dover, Marilyn Rudrud, Clerk/Treasurer
99. Town of Eau Pleine, Portage County
100. Town of Farmington, Joanne Oneska
101. Town of Gordon, Jerry Jossart, Town Chairman
102. Town of Grover, Lisa Wittak
103. Town of Hartford, Lori Opitz, Clerk
104. Town of Hayward, Don Hamblin, Road Supervisor
105. Town of Hayward, Jeff Homuth, Town Chairman
106. Town of Humboldt, Judy Baierl
107. Town of Hutchins, Shawano County
108. Town of Johnson, Marilyn K. Bhend, Clerk
109. Town of Keystone Town Board, Bayfield County
110. Town of Lake Mills, James Heinz
111. Town of Lomira, Lauri Betz, Town Clerk
112. Town of Merton, Susan J. Oman, CMC/WCMC
113. Town of Mishicot, Connie Tesarik, Clerk
114. Town of Navarino, Kevin Conradt
115. Town of Oakland, Veronica Heenan
116. Town of Pella Town Board
117. Town of Pine Lake Town Board, Cindy Skinner, Clerk
118. Town of Ruby, Joy Jones, Clerk
119. Town of Three Lakes, Don Sidlowski, Town Chairman
120. Town of Unity, Marsha Martens, Clerk
121. Town of Warner, Jerome Krempasky, Clerk
122. Town of Watterstown, Beth Randall, Clerk
123. Town of Winfield, Teresa Bass, Clerk
124. Town of Wolf River, Kathy Mischler, Previous Clerk
125. Tri-R Recycling Project, Kathy Palahniuk
126. Village of Black Earth
127. Village of Blue Mounds, Alan Downs, President
128. Village of Francis Creek, Ted Zigmunt; Village President
129. Village of Gresham, Art Bahr, Village Administrator/Utility Manager
130. Village of Hollandale
131. Village of Maribel Village Board
132. Village of Mt. Calvary, Mary Merten, Clerk
133. Village of Mukwonago, James O. Wagner, Village President and Village Trustees
134. Village of Oakfield
135. Village of Oxford, Erwin Meyer, President
136. Village of Port Edwards, Joseph M. Terry
137. Village of Reedsville, Bill Lorrigan, Village President
138. Village of Rockdale Board of Directors, Peggy Keach
139. Village of Rosendale, Daniel Holdridge, Director of Public Works
140. Village of Shorewood Conservation Committee, Jennifer Essak

141. Village of Spencer, Gerald Kobs, Clerk/Treasurer
142. Village of Spring Green
143. Village of Steuben
144. Village Clerk, Village of Stratford
145. Village of Sullivan
146. Village of Valders, Lori Bruckner, Village Clerk/Treasurer
147. Village of Wausaukee, Toshia J. Ranallo, Municipal Clerk
148. Village of White Lake, Brenda Unger, Clerk/Treasurer
149. Village of Whitelaw, Christina Hill, CMC, WCMC
150. Waste Management of Wisconsin, Inc.
151. Winnebago County Solid Waste Management Board
152. Wisconsin Audubon Council
153. Wisconsin Green Building Alliance, Elizabeth Hittman, Interim Executive Director
154. Wisconsin Wildlife Federation