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April 29, 2009

Mr. James C. Colman
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Waste Prevention
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

RE: 2010 Solid Waste Master Plan

Dear Mr. Colman,

It was a pleasure to meet with you and MassDEP staff on February 25th, 2009, to discuss the 2010 Solid Waste Master Plan (The Plan); we appreciate your taking the time to attend the MassRecycle Board of Directors meeting. As we discussed at the meeting, there were a few items that were not included in our initial letter dated January 5, 2009 that we want to be sure receive your attention. In addition, we would like to reinforce and expand upon some of the statements made in our original letter.

Zero Waste

We welcome the change in perspective represented by the term "materials management" in the Plan, however managing materials after they have been created does little to discourage manufacturers from producing, and consumers from buying, products that are not economical to reuse or recycle. To address this fundamental problem, the Plan needs to include among its primary long-term goals a commitment to reduce the amount of unwanted and difficult to manage waste in the first place.

Regardless of whether the Plan refers to this as "zero waste," the document must establish incentives for manufacturers to reduce production waste, improve product recyclability, reduce product toxicity and cut unnecessary packaging waste. This can be done by adopting policies, such as Extended Producer Responsibility and Product Stewardship, which place responsibility for end-of-life management of products and associated packaging on producers and product consumers. These policies are necessary to create greater motivation for manufacturers to include end of life management in product design, and relieve taxpayers and local governments of the burden of disposal of unnecessary and toxic materials.

The concept of zero waste and the tools associated with it have become the leadership standard embraced by many. While it is recognized that a successful plan would include traditional material management strategies, we would be extremely disappointed if the authors failed to place the concept of zero waste at the heart of the Plan.

Waste Ban Enforcement

Consistent waste ban enforcement is critical to leveling the playing field for waste processors. Only when waste bans are enforced aggressively and consistently will haulers and generators take them seriously. While some enforcement efforts have been made at Massachusetts-based facilities, little oversight exists over the 1.6 million tons of materials that are disposed of out of state. We encourage MassDEP to consider hiring third party



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administrators to inspect waste and report findings in order to improve compliance.

Performance Based Rewards

The Municipal Recycling Incentive Program (MRIP) model was extremely successful in motivating municipalities to improve their recycling programs and increase environmentally preferable product (EPP) purchases. Should funds become available a similar performance-based program for municipalities and/or businesses should be considered. A program that motivates municipalities to provide greater support to small and medium size businesses and multi-family facilities could be very successful in improving the success of recycling beyond residential programs.

Updated Bottle Bill

MassRecycle strongly supports updating the Beverage Container Redemption Law (Bottle Bill) to include all away-from-home beverage containers, including but not limited to water, flavored water, tea, juice, and sport drinks.

The Bottle Bill has been extremely effective in diverting the beverage containers included in the 1982 Bottle Bill from the waste stream; however there has been a significant change in away-from-home beverage consumption in the past twenty-five years and the existing law no longer includes a wide variety of beverages consumed away from home. Updating the Bottle Bill to include additional beverage container categories is critical to effectively capturing these containers for recycling.

In addition, the loss of revenue from the Clean Environment Fund for use in financing recycling programs has had a significant negative impact on recycling efforts in Massachusetts. Designating unclaimed deposits from containers included in the expanded Bottle Bill for use by recycling programs would provide a much needed source of funds to support recycling and related initiatives in Massachusetts.

Market Development

Creating markets for recyclable materials is critical to “closing the loop” and supporting the economic viability of local recycling efforts. The Plan should place renewed emphasis on developing local infrastructure and markets for materials in the waste stream, both those already collected for recycling as well as materials currently disposed of as trash.

Getting to Zero Waste requires creating additional markets for materials in our waste stream. Developing new markets for recyclable materials in Massachusetts creates local jobs and reduces greenhouse gasses associated with shipping materials out of state or overseas. The Plan must provide a framework to support and expand the local recycling industry.

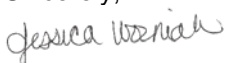
Business Recycling

Previous Solid Waste Master Plans have placed a great deal of emphasis on recycling in the residential and municipal sector. The Plan must provide greater emphasis on recycling in the commercial sector.

Over the past twenty years MassDEP regulations have effectively motivated most municipalities to provide recycling access to their residents, but few provide programs for their businesses. The Plan must include ways to make recycling more accessible and affordable to small and medium sized businesses throughout the Commonwealth, and encourage large businesses to recycle as well. Increased waste ban enforcement, motivation for municipalities to assist local businesses, and providing greater access to resources and knowledge base are some of the tools to help foster increased recycling in the commercial sector.

MassRecycle appreciates the opportunity to provide input to MassDEP for inclusion in the Plan. If you have any further questions or if there is any way MassRecycle could be of additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Jessica Wozniak
Executive Director