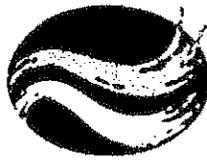


LANDFILL ADMINISTRATION  
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## Winnebago County

### Solid Waste Management Board

*The Wave of the Future*

SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING  
TRANSFER STATION  
(920) 232-1850  
FOX CITIES  
(920) 727-2896  
FAX (920) 424-4955

LANDFILL GAS FACILITY  
(920) 232-1800  
FAX (920) 424-7761

February 25, 2015

Senator Alberta Darling  
Room 317 East  
State Capitol  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative John Nygren  
Room 309 East  
State Capitol  
PO Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Honorable Chairs of the Joint Finance Committee:

Enclosed please find a resolution passed by the Winnebago County Solid Waste Management Board (WCSWMB) on February 18, 2015 in opposition to Governor Scott Walker's proposed cuts to recycling and waste reduction programs in the 2015-2017 biennial budget.

The 2015-2017 Executive Budget Bill proposed by Governor Walker seeks to reduce recycling grant funding to municipalities by \$4 million in 2015-2016 and eliminate funding of the UW-Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC) and the UW-System Solid Waste Research grant program. The source of funding for these programs is the \$7.00/ton Recycling Fee imposed on each ton of municipal solid waste disposed of in Wisconsin landfills. The Recycling Fee nets an average of \$34 million in revenues per year. While the collection of the Recycling Fee remains fully intact, the Governor's budget proposes to cut critical grant funding and educational resources funded by the Fee.

Municipalities have already seen their financial support from the State for mandated recycling programs dwindle from approximately \$30 million in 2008 to \$19 million in 2011 to the proposed \$15 million in 2015, a 50% reduction in seven years. The proposed \$15 million recycling grant allocation is anticipated to cover only 14% of actual program costs of the mandated recycling program.

SHWEC and the UW-System Solid Waste Research grant program are two additional casualties proposed by Governor Walker's budget. Winnebago County has directly benefitted from the staff expertise, factsheets, website, workshops and additional resources provided by SHWEC. The four positions for "extension recycling education" will be a significant loss to businesses and municipalities around the state, as SHWEC provides no-cost technical assistance on recycling, composting, solid and hazardous waste, green building, pollution prevention, energy, sustainable communities and more. The UW-System Solid Waste Research program has

funded more than 250 research projects since 1990. The body of work from this program is vast, from serving as the foundation for changes to state solid waste laws to aiding private industry in more effective management of waste byproducts. Again, funding proposed to be eliminated for SHWEC and the UW-System Solid Waste Research grant program are fully paid for via the \$7.00/ton Recycling Fee, not through general purpose revenues.

The Recycling Fee was specifically created to support recycling and waste reduction programs. Maintaining the Fee, while cutting these programs, erodes the public trust in sound fiscal policy. The WCSWMB requests the restoration of recycling grant funding for municipalities of \$4 million in 2015-2016 and the restoration of funding for SHWEC and the UW-System Solid Waste Research grant program.

Thank you for considering the views of Winnebago County Solid Waste Management Board. Please feel free to contact Jennifer Semrau, Winnebago County Recycling Coordinator (920) 232-1853 with questions regarding the position of WCSWMB.

Sincerely,



Patrick O'Brien  
Chairman, Winnebago County Solid Waste Management Board

Enclosure

CC: Municipalities of Winnebago County  
Brown County  
Outagamie County  
Wisconsin Counties Association  
Wisconsin Towns Association  
League of Wisconsin Municipalities  
Wisconsin Alliance of Cities  
Winnebago County State Representatives  
Winnebago County State Senators  
Members of the Joint Committee on Finance  
Governor Scott Walker

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD RESOLUTION OPPOSING  
REDUCTION OF RECYCLING GRANT FUNDING AND ELIMINATION OF SHWEC AND UW  
SYSTEM SOLID WASTE RESEARCH PROGRAM FUNDING:**

1           **WHEREAS**, recycling provides a whole host of environmental benefits, including  
2 preserving natural resources, less air pollution, energy savings, reduced greenhouse gas  
3 emissions, reducing mining wastes and conserving landfill space; and  
4

5           **WHEREAS**, recycling also provides extensive economic benefits, providing material  
6 feedstock for manufacturing, business development, state and local tax revenue and four times  
7 more jobs than the disposal industry; and  
8

9           **WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin mandated recycling in 1990 under 1989 Wisconsin  
10 Act 335 and Administrative Code NR 544; and  
11

12           **WHEREAS**, Towns, Villages, Cities and Counties, hereafter Municipalities, responded  
13 by becoming Responsible Units (RUs) for Recycling and as such, invested millions of dollars in  
14 education, collection and processing infrastructure for Effective Recycling Programs; and  
15

16           **WHEREAS**, Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties invested in Material Recovery  
17 Facilities (MRFs) and constructed a MRF in each County to serve the recycling processing  
18 needs of its residents in anticipation of the 1995 landfill bans; and  
19

20           **WHEREAS**, to improve the efficiencies and cost effectiveness of the three Counties'  
21 programs, Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago County developed and signed a Cooperative  
22 Agreement in 2002 which consolidated recycling processing operations and eliminated one  
23 MRF; and  
24

25           **WHEREAS**, in 2009 to further enhance operational efficiencies and to invest in needed  
26 technological improvements, Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties consolidated all  
27 processing operations into a single new, jointly-owned \$9.8 million dollar single stream recycling  
28 MRF; and  
29

30           **WHEREAS**, in 2014 to further enhance operational efficiencies and expand recyclable  
31 material acceptance, Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties improved the single stream  
32 recycling MRF with a new, nearly \$1.9 million dollar investment; and  
33

34           **WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin originally proposed to cost share 66% of the  
35 Municipalities' costs for establishing and maintaining Effective Recycling Programs; and  
36

37           **WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin has imposed levy limits on Municipalities putting  
38 many under severe financial constraints; and  
39

40           **WHEREAS**, the 2015-2017 Executive Budget Bill proposed by Governor Scott Walker  
41 seeks to reduce recycling grant funding to RUs by \$4 million in 2015-2016; eliminate funding for  
42 the Department of Corrections computer recycling program, the UW-Extension Solid and  
43 Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC) and the UW-System Solid Waste Research  
44 grant program; and  
45

46           **WHEREAS**, the source of funding for recycling grants for RUs is the \$7.00/ton Recycling  
47 Fee charged on each ton of municipal solid waste disposed of at Wisconsin landfills; and

48  
49       **WHEREAS**, the Recycling Fee generates an average of \$34.1 million per year, yet the  
50 recycling funding to RUs has eroded from nearly \$30 million in 2008 to \$19 million in 2011 to the  
51 proposed \$15 million for 2015, a 50% reduction in seven years, while the full \$7.00/ton  
52 Recycling Fee continues to be collected by the State; and  
53

54       **WHEREAS**, the proposed \$15 million recycling grant allocation is anticipated to cover  
55 only 14% of actual program costs of the mandated recycling program; and  
56

57       **WHEREAS**, SHWEC's mission is to enhance Wisconsin's environment and economy by  
58 providing quality education, information and technical assistance to promote the sustainable use  
59 of natural resources, and Winnebago County has directly benefitted from SHWEC's staff  
60 expertise, factsheets, workshops and website; and  
61

62       **WHEREAS**, the UW-System Solid Waste Research program was established by the  
63 Wisconsin legislature in 1990 and seeks research into alternative methods of solid waste  
64 disposal, including the reduction in the amount of solid waste generated, the reuse and  
65 recycling of materials, composting, source separation and the disposal of household hazardous  
66 waste and the program has funded over 250 research projects to date; and  
67

68       **WHEREAS**, the Winnebago County Solid Waste Management Board previously  
69 opposed reduction/elimination of recycling grant funding (2011) and the elimination of SHWEC  
70 (2001);  
71

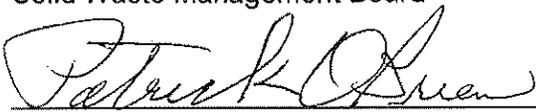
72       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Winnebago County Solid Waste  
73 Management Board opposes the \$4 million reduction of RU recycling grant funding in 2015-  
74 2016; and  
75

76       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Winnebago County Solid Waste Management  
77 Board opposes the elimination of funding for UW-Extension SHWEC and the UW-System Solid  
78 Waste Research program; and  
79

80       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Winnebago County Solid Waste Management  
81 Board supports the full use of the Recycling Fee as the source of funding for financial  
82 assistance to Municipalities, as it was intended, and the funding of SHWEC and the UW-System  
83 Solid Waste Research program; and  
84

85       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to  
86 municipalities of Winnebago County, Brown County, Outagamie County, Wisconsin Counties  
87 Association, Wisconsin Towns Association, League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Wisconsin  
88 Alliance of Cities, Winnebago County State Representatives and State Senators, Joint  
89 Committee on Finance and Governor Scott Walker.  
90

91  
92 Solid Waste Management Board

93  
94   
95 \_\_\_\_\_  
96 Authorized Signature

2/18/2015  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date