

March 12, 2014

The Honorable Senator Green  
& Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee  
The Honorable Representative Eileen Kowall  
& Members of the House Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee  
Michigan Senate & House of Representatives  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Senators & Representatives:

As organizations with a commitment to the growth and development of the recycling industry in Michigan, and participants in the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Stakeholder Recycling Initiative, we are writing to urge you to support the Executive Budget recommendation to appropriate \$1 million from the General Fund to support an on-going statewide recycling initiative within the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality budget.

State leadership and investment is long overdue in this arena and the initiative proposed by the Governor represents a welcome recognition that Michigan can and should do better in terms of fully achieving the economic and environmental rewards that a comprehensive residential recycling program can bring to the state.

Studies in Michigan, and across the country, show that investments in recycling, both public and private, provide substantial economic and environmental returns on that investment. The Governor's modest proposal includes components that begin to move Michigan in the direction of adopting best practices and supporting an industry with great potential.

The initiative proposed in the Executive Budget is the first step in bringing Michigan into a competitive position with regard to other states in our region and throughout the U.S. We offer our full support for this funding appropriation and of continued work to maximize the benefits recycling has to offer.

Sincerely,

