

September 15, 2020

To Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

Passage of the package of bills, HB 5812-5817, which would reform the solid waste laws of Michigan, is very important to many of Michigan's citizens, myself included.

For the past 31 years, the Greater Laingsburg Recyclers (of which I have been a member since its inception) has provided a monthly recycling service for the City of Laingsburg and surrounding area. We are all volunteers. Our efforts have been sidelined since the onset of the pandemic but we hope to resume as soon as possible. Since our shutdown we have received regular phone calls from residents whose recyclable wastes are piling up asking when we will resume.

We have all grown old(er) during this time, and for some the effort of providing our service has become more challenging. But we persist because we must: There are no other recycling services in our area (we have patrons coming here from Owosso, Corunna, Perry, Bath and elsewhere). And many of those who are faithful recyclers are elderly and would have a difficult time taking their materials to places like Granger and MSU. They rely on us. We also, from the outset, got our schools recycling and pick up their materials monthly.

It is high time that our government recognized the necessity of responsible solid waste management. These bills are an excellent way to begin the process already begun by EGLE. Please approve them—as a beginning to a sustainable future for Michigan.

Thank you,

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