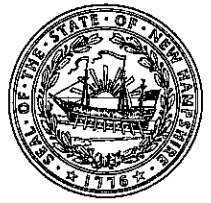




The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner**

April 30, 2009

Senator Martha Fuller Clark, Chairman  
Energy, Environment and Economic Development Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 102  
Concord, NH 03301

**SUBJECT: HB 338, An act relative to definitions of electronic waste.**

Dear Chairman Fuller Clark and Members of the Committee:

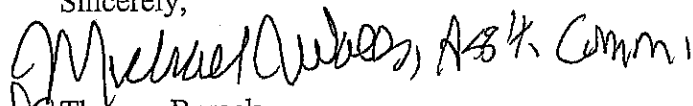
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 338. This legislation seeks to include computers and video playing/recording devices in the list of electronic waste ("e-waste") that is banned from disposal in landfills and incinerators in New Hampshire. The Department of Environmental Services (Department) supports this bill because it promotes recycling, conserves natural resources and landfill capacity, and reduces the risk of releasing contaminants to our air and water.

Nationally, 2.25 million tons of e-waste were discarded in 2007. Of this amount, less than 18% was recycled. The remainder was disposed of in landfills and incinerators. Computers and video recording devices contain recyclable materials such as plastics, steel and other metals. They also contain significant amounts of lead and other materials that can leach out of the device under landfill conditions or can be emitted to the atmosphere if disposed of in an incinerator. They are also not readily compactable and therefore can occupy a considerable amount of landfill space.

Many of the electronics manufacturing companies and the electronics retailers have set up recycling programs for electronic waste. On their own, they have taken responsibility for their products at end of life. Through these programs and collection programs run by municipalities at local transfer stations, most citizens of our state have convenient access to e-waste recycling opportunities. Because of this, the consumer should experience little, if any, impact if these products are banned from disposal in landfills and incinerators.

The Department encourages passage of HB 338. If you have any questions regarding this letter of testimony, please do not hesitate to contact Mike Wimsatt, Waste Management Division Director at 271-2905, or me at 271-2958.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas Burack  
Commissioner

cc: Michael J. Wimsatt, P.G., Director, Waste Management Division