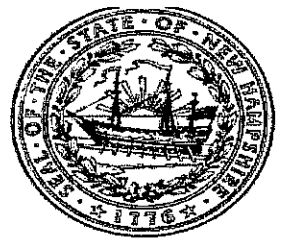




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

April 29, 2009

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

SUBJECT: HB 423-FN-A-Local, An act requiring the department of environmental services to develop an outreach campaign to disseminate information on recycling materials, including electronic waste.

Dear Chairman Fuller Clark and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 423. This legislation requires the Department of Environmental Services to develop an outreach campaign to disseminate information on recycling materials, including electronic waste. 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.

In 2007, towns and cities in New Hampshire had combined budget line items of \$116 million for the disposal of solid waste. Each 1% increase in recycling rate saves municipalities approximately \$1 million and diverts over 5300 tons of waste from landfills and incinerators. The Department estimates that the waste generated by commercial entities such as businesses, manufacturing, and multi-family housing costs another \$116 million, and increasing recycling at these entities will result in comparable savings.

The Department agrees that education is key to improving and sustaining effective recycling programs. We engage in a number of education initiatives that promote recycling. The Department's Solid Waste Technical Assistance Section trains solid waste facility operators about recycling techniques through initial certification and continuing education courses. In addition, Department staff make presentations about recycling topics to select boards and recycling committees on request. The Department also uses media outlets such as newspapers and radio to present recycling information to our citizens. We support this bill, and while current budget constraints will be a barrier in the near term, expanding our education and outreach efforts to improve recycling in our state remains as a priority goal.

The Department encourages passage of HB 423. 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,

Michael Wills, Ass't Comm
for
Thomas Burack
Commissioner

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

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