



## **PROPOSED SENATE INTERIM CHARGES**

### **Texas Recycling Market Development Plan (TxRMDP)**

#### **Business and Commerce Committee**

Examine, improve, enhance or complete recommendations of the TxRMDP; and particularly:

- Consider what activities and resources of the State can be applied to the recycling industry to enhance its business growth and its commercial value.
- Consider adding recycling to the Texas Industry Cluster Initiative in the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Tourism.
- Consider how Texas products produced from recyclables can benefit from inclusion in State branding and marketing programs like the Genuine Texas Program (Economic Development), Go Texan (Agriculture) and Take Care of Texas (TCEQ).
- Consider how supporting government entities across the State to improve cooperative education and actions with recycling service customers, haulers and processors to reduce or eliminate the frequency of discarded material being placed in the incorrect bin, cart, or dumpster; and
- Consider the structure of General Revenue solid Waste Disposal Fees *Fund 5000* grants to COGs to encourage regional recycling growth plans and harmonized public education and awareness programs in cooperation with the private sector to reduce contamination.
- Identify methods, including policy, to encourage the participation and involvement of organizations including Keep Texas Beautiful, State of Texas Alliance for Recycling, Texas Association of Manufacturers, Texas Beverage Association, ISRI, Texas Economic Development Corporation, Texas Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America, National Waste and Recycling Association and other industry, government and NGO organizations to grow the recycling industry in Texas.

#### **Finance Committee**

Examine, improve, enhance or complete recommendations of the TxRMDP; and particularly:

- Consider existing and potential funding sources to promote better management and growth of the recycling industry. Consider an adjustment to the Landfill Surcharge - 5000 Fund such that a dedicated portion funds the operation of the Texas Recycling Market Development Center and the functions of the Recycling Market Development Board and increased staff needs at TCEQ.

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- Grants to COGS, that come from the *5000 Fund*, can be incentivized to produce regional recycling market growth plans and public education and awareness harmonization programs to help reduce contamination.

(The tip fee surcharge is currently set at \$.94 per ton; reduced from its previous rate of \$1.25 per ton. A six-cent increase rendering \$1.00 per ton will yield \$2 million to fund the Center and the Board.)

### **Higher Education Committee**

Examine, improve, enhance or complete the recommendations of the TxRMDP; and particularly;

- How the State University System can become effectively engaged in the growth of the recycling industry.
- Location of the Recycling Market Development Center at a State University.
- Consider role of A&M Texas Agrilife and other academic entities to help coordinate dissemination of public information and awareness information regarding contamination reduction and market development.

### **Local Government Committee**

Examine, improve, enhance or complete the recommendations of the TxRMDP; and particularly:

- Consider how local government can better become engaged in cooperative actions with recycling service customers, collectors and processors to reduce or eliminate contamination.
- Consider the structure of Fund 5000 Grants to COGs to encourage regional recycling growth plans and harmonized public education and awareness programs to reduce contamination.

### **Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee**

Examine, improve, enhance or complete the recommendations of the RMDP, and particularly;

- Enhancing the ability of the TCEQ to amplify their focus on the recycling industry as a unique part of our solid waste management system;
- Consider notification, registration and permit procedures and rules that recognize Material Recovery Facilities more as Processors, rather than being currently classified and managed as Transfer Stations due to percent of contamination that causes this misclassification;
- Consider modification of the Compost Rules such that processors in Texas can be assisted to achieve national industry certification standards in order to enhance their competitive abilities;
- Consider how compost products derived in Texas can be more effectively used in agriculture, in rights-of-way and in urban settings to reduce water usage, improve surface

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water quality, reduce stormwater contamination by agricultural chemicals and sediment, decrease flooding, and sequester carbon to reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere; and

- Consider amendment to the Landfill Tip Fee Surcharge – 5000 Fund to finance the Texas Recycling Market Development Center and Texas Recycling Market Development Board including staff requirements at TCEQ and other agencies, incent COGs to produce regional recycling market development plans and harmonized public education programs to reduce contamination.;
- Consider reinstatement of the Waste Tire Disposal Fee to support increased tire recycling and mitigation of tire dumps;
- Consider methods to enhance the use of recyclables derived from construction and demolition debris, and market stimulation for those products,
- Consider the structure of Fund 5000 Grants to COGs to encourage regional recycling growth plans and harmonized public education and awareness programs to reduce contamination
- Consider and recommend how agencies under your jurisdiction can coalesce, mobilize and promote the economic development of the recycling industry.

### **Transportation Committee**

Examine, improve, enhance or complete the recommendations of the RMDP; and particularly:

- The use of recycled construction and debris materials and compost and mulch in road construction and maintenance to enhance market growth.
- Examine and consider how reduction in contamination in the recycling collection system can help to optimize efficiency, reduce road wear and lower the carbon footprint of collection services.
- Consider how consumption of recyclables generated in-state by in-state manufacturers provides a supply/freight cost advantage to the industry by avoiding having to import recyclable feed-stock from out-of-state.

### **Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee**

Examine, improve, enhance or complete the recommendations of the RMDP; and particularly:

- Consider how recycling reduces litter and its costs and its impacts on our surface waters.
- Consider how compost can be more effectively used in agriculture to improve crop yield, reduce irrigation needs, improve surface water quality, reduce the need for agricultural chemicals, decrease flooding, improve crop nutrients, and reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
- Consider the need for enhanced recycling infrastructure in rural, underserved areas.

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