

# Wisconsin Be SMART Coalition

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### **Mission:**

*To provide leadership and promote actions that reduce waste, conserve resources, prevent pollution, and foster sustainability through community partnerships and educational programs.*

### **Toll free**

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**[www.RecycleMoreWisconsin.org](http://www.RecycleMoreWisconsin.org)**

May 8, 2009

Dear Senator,

I am writing this letter in support of SB 107 on behalf of the Wisconsin Be SMART Coalition. The coalition is made up of more than 50 local governments, non-profit organizations, agencies and businesses working together to reduce waste, conserve resources, prevent pollution and foster sustainability.

The Coalition supports SB 107 because it establishes a statewide infrastructure and funding for recycling computers and televisions. This would internalize the true cost of the product and provide a system for proper recycling that recovers valuable metals, helps address the issue of exporting electronic waste to developing countries without proper environmental controls, and establishes tracking and reporting of waste to assure environmental compliance.

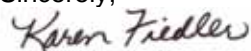
We have a history of involvement in electronics recycling. In 2004 the Coalition received a grant from Dell, and in cooperation with a Wisconsin recycling company, Cascade Asset Management, collected over 89 tons of computers, printers, and accessories at State Fair Park on a single day from over 1,900 participants. The Coalition also coordinated a cooperative bid for the recycling of computers in southeast Wisconsin. Last year more than 31 communities and agencies throughout the state recycled over 512 tons (or 1 million pounds) of computers and related equipment through the cooperative contract.

Some member municipalities have established residential computer recycling drop off sites, however due to increasing budget cuts local governments cannot continue to bear the cost to recycle residential electronics. Generally we have not been able to include televisions due to the additional cost and lack of infrastructure.

Recycling creates new business opportunities, provides jobs, recovers feedstock for new products, and creates new markets. Residents want to dispose of electronic waste responsibly, but they need convenient, responsible programs that are easy to use and assure protection of public health and the environment.

Action is needed now. The change in technology to flat screens and digital TV will result in disposal of hundreds of thousands of televisions in Wisconsin within the next few years. Thank you for your timely consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Karen Fiedler, Chairperson



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