



Portage County Solid Waste Department

Meleesa D. Johnson, Administrator
James Zdroik, Chairperson- Solid Waste Management Board
Jeff Lodzinski, Solid Waste/Landfill Manager



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & SAVE

"Nothing in nature is exhausted in its first use." Ralph Waldo Emerson

January 18, 2008

Senator Mark Miller
Chairperson-Environment & Natural Resources Committee
Wisconsin State Senate
Room 409
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Re: SB 397

Dear Sen. Miller & members of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I offer this written testimony in support of the newly introduced SB 397, relating to: the disposal, collection, and recycling of electronic devices, making an appropriation, and providing penalties. However, I have the following comments and/or concerns regarding SB 397

- 1) Of greatest concern is the plan for placing any monies collected as a part of this bill into the Recycling Fund. As you are well aware, the Recycling Fund has been repeatedly ransacked over the years for uses other than for recycling. And now with the dramatic change in the funds purpose and title, I believe it would be well-advised to initiate a separate Electronics Recycling/Reuse Fund to only protect the SB 397 funds, but also not add further stressors to the Recycling Fund.
- 2) I support the substitute language that states that "no person may knowingly place a television, computer monitor, computer peripheral..."
- 3) In addition to the above noted substitute language I would like to suggest the following: Whenever practicable and without causing undue physical harm to disposal site personnel, an effort shall be made to remove from the waste stream all televisions, computer monitors, computer peripheral, facsimile machines, digital video players, video recorder or telephone with video display.
- 4) SB 397 embraces the spirit and intent of Recommendation B.1 and B.2 of the Governor's Task Force on Waste Materials Recovery and Disposal. As a member of the this task force, I am enormously pleased to see our months of review, research, discussion and deliberations come to life in the contents of this bill.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these remarks and for this opportunity to present testimony.

Best regards,


Meleesa D. Johnson

Administrator-Marathon & Portage Co. Solid Waste Dept.
Member-WCA Environment & Land Use Steering Committee
Executive Board member-Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Management Assn.