

PRO-RECYCLING MICHIGAN BUSINESS ALLIANCE

September 1, 2020
Governor Gretchen Whitmer
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Gretchen Whitmer:

We, the undersigned organizations and companies, are writing to urge enactment of the six-bill package that will update Michigan's solid waste laws to set ambitious, yet achievable targets, and create a policy framework to support investment in the state's recycling infrastructure. As leaders in business and communities, we support this policy approach as it fosters public – private partnership to meet recycling goals and transform currently disposed materials into new products that hold both economic and environmental benefits for Michigan.

Michigan's investment in recycling is more important than ever. Maintaining investment in recycling collection and building strong local markets that feed local and regional supply chains, will help communities weather the storm and ensure the stability and growth of productive materials use and reuse in the state. Planning and leadership from the state ensures that communities can benefit from their commitment to recycling, and recycling businesses can survive and thrive.

As organizations concerned with growing recycling in Michigan, we support the legislative package as it will facilitate the development of sustainable materials management programs and infrastructure through a comprehensive update of the state's regulations. Specifically, we support and encourage enactment of the following measures:

- **Updated standards and goals** including a new benchmark recycling standards that set recycling access requirements for the state's communities, and a statewide goal—a 30 percent recycling rate by 2025, and 45 percent thereafter (HB 5812)
- **Funding for recycling markets, education, innovation and access** to sustain and expand the capacity and effectiveness of local programs and to add new staff in the Economic Development Agency to build recycling markets (HB 5815)
- **Clear and appropriate regulatory requirements** for recycling and composting facilities, including more advanced MRFs, improved composting operations and continued development of anaerobic digestion and innovative technologies such as plastics to fuel processing (HB 5816)
- **Local solid waste management planning** requirements and funding to ensure that the local government programs implement state standards and goals (HB 5817)

This rewrite of solid waste law will ensure that Michigan can use recycling as an economic engine to create jobs and economic opportunity, while we reduce waste and improve sustainability.

Thank you for your leadership in implementing this important measure. We look forward to working with you to support the priorities outlined above, and to ensure that the proposed updates to Part 115 support a strong recycling future in Michigan.

Sincerely,

National and State Organizations: *[list below represents signers of previous letters]*

