



## **PROPOSED TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES INTERIM CHARGES**

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

#### **Ways and Means Committee**

Examine, improve, enhance, or complete recommendations of the Recycling Market Development Plan (TxRMDP) as it pertains to State administrative capabilities including the coordination of various agencies; and particularly:

- Consider adding recycling to the Texas Industry Cluster Initiative in the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Tourism;
- Consider the structure of *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.
- Recommend administrative actions to engage the participation of other key State agencies in the recycling market development effort including Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Texas Facilities Commission, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Department of Agriculture, Comptroller, A&M Agrilife Extension Service, University System, Councils of Government and local government and other appropriate entities; and
- Identify methods to encourage the participation and involvement of organizations including Keep Texas Beautiful, State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR), Texas Association of Manufacturers, Texas Beverage Association, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), Texas Economic Development Corporation, Texas Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA) and other industry, government and non-government organization (NGO) organizations to grow the recycling industry in Texas.

#### **Business and Industry Committee**

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

- Consider activities and resources that can be applied to the recycling industry to enhance its business growth and commercial value;
- 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 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ);

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- 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 *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.

### **Appropriations Committee**

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

- Consider existing and potential funding sources to promote management and growth of the recycling industry.
- Consider an adjustment to the *General Revenue Solid Waste Disposal Fees Account - 5000 Fund* to fund the operation of the proposed Texas Recycling Market Development Center and Recycling Market Development Board and increased staff needs at TCEQ; and
- 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 the frequency of discarded material being placed in the incorrect bin, cart, or dumpster.

(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 that could be used to fund the Center and the Board.)

### **Higher Education Committee**

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

- Engaging the State university system in the growth of the recycling industry;
- House the Recycling Market Development Center at a State university; and
- Consider role of A&M Texas Agrilife and other academic entities to help coordinate and disseminate public education and awareness information regarding contamination reduction and market development activities.

### **Environmental Regulation Committee**

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

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- 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 reduce water usage, improve surface 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 and
- 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 TxRMDP; and particularly:

- The use of recycled construction and debris materials and compost and mulch in road construction and maintenance to enhance recycling industry market growth and decrease construction and maintenance costs;
- 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; and
- Consider how consumption of recyclables generated in-state by in-state manufacturers provides a freight cost advantage to the industry by avoiding having to import recyclable feed-stock from out-of-state.

### **Agriculture and Livestock Committee**

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

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- Consider how recycling reduces litter and its costs and 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; and
- Consider the need for enhanced recycling infrastructure in rural, underserved areas.

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