

June 24, 2015

Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
207 State Capital Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Subject: Request to Approve and Sign HB 1455

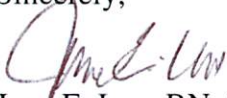
Dear Governor Rauner:

On behalf of the DeKalb County Health Department, we ask that you sign into law HB 1455 to amend the Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act. SWALCO was a key participant in the negotiations that resulted in HB 1455 and we have a vital stake in this law as the largest collector of electronics in the State of Illinois. Without this bill becoming effective soon, our program is in jeopardy of being shut down due to costs that have been shifted from the manufacturers to units of local government such as SWALCO.

We ask that you sign this bill without waiting the 60 days you have to act due to the fact this bill will have positive impacts effective immediately. You and your staff will note this bill was unanimously passed by both chambers indicating the hard work and consensus that went into drafting the bill. We worked closely with the bill's chief sponsors in both chambers (Representative McAsey and Senator Althoff) and met numerous times with all key stakeholders in meetings organized by the sponsors. The stakeholders who attended all ended up either supporting the bill or going neutral, including the Consumers Electronics Association, Illinois Manufacturers Association, Illinois Retail Merchants Association, Tech America, Panasonic, Hewlett-Packard, National Waste and Recycling Association, Peoria Disposal Company, Illinois Environmental Council, Environmental Law and Policy Center, IEPA, and Will County/Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County/ SWALCO (acting on behalf of over a dozen other units of local government throughout the State that collect electronics).

The stakeholders and legislators are aware that HB 1455 represents a short term fix and that we have more work to do under your leadership as the IEPA begins a review of the law as required by statute in order to develop a long term solution that is sustainable and effective. While HB 1455 will raise the goal for electronics recycling to 46.6 million pounds for 2015, that is still less than the manufacturers collected last year (47.9 million) according to the IEPA.

Sincerely,



Jane E. Lux, RN, MPH
Public Health Administrator