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July 1, 2015

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

Subject: HB 1455

Dear Governor Rauner:

On behalf of the City of Urbana, Illinois, we urge you to sign HB 1455, amending the Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act, and raising the goal for electronics recycling to 46.6 million pounds in 2015. Though HB 1455 represents a short-term solution, without this bill electronics recycling collection programs in the City of Urbana/Champaign County will be jeopardized.

Communities such as Urbana rely on continued support from manufacturers to collect electronic devices including cathode-ray tube (CRT) devices, which are banned from landfills. We can't continue to subsidize electronics collection day programs without the manufacturers' support, so this bill is critical to continue efforts to recycle electronic devices and protect the environment. Resident options to recycle electronic devices in Urbana especially televisions, is extremely limited. We need the support of the bill so that these devices don't end up being dumped or otherwise causing environmental harm. The purpose of the landfill ban is to protect our environment from the heavy metals present in most electronics, including lead, cadmium and mercury, along with developing a marketplace to recycle materials and creating jobs. Bill co-sponsors from east-central Illinois, including Senator Scott Bennett and Representative Carol Ammons, have been instrumental in pushing this legislation forward.

HB 1455 will have a beneficial impact immediately. We urge you to sign the bill prior to 60 days so that communities such as the City of Urbana can continue to provide our citizens electronic recycling collection programs and so that we can continue to do the right thing for our community and our environment.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

William R. Gray
Public Works Director, City of Urbana

Courtney R. Kwong
Recycling Coordinator, City of Urbana
Chair, Illinois Product Stewardship Council

