



COUNTY OF WILL

WILL COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING • 302 NORTH CHICAGO STREET • JOLIET, IL 60432

Lawrence M. Walsh
Will County Executive

James G. Moustis
Will County Board Speaker

July 2, 2015

Honorable Governor Bruce Rauner
Office of the Governor of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Re: Requesting Signature of HB1455

Dear Governor Rauner:

Thank you for working on behalf of the citizens and businesses of Illinois. On behalf of Will County, we urge you to sign into law HB1455 (Electronics Recycling) as soon as possible. Will County has been a leader in providing electronics recycling programs for over fifteen years, and through our contractor, are currently recycling over 3.5 million pounds of electronics annually.

As you already know, recycling creates local jobs and contributes greatly to the economy throughout the state. The banning of electronics from landfills in 2012 resulted in many new businesses opening and many existing recyclers growing their business, employing thousands across the state. As more people recycled, the goals set for residential recycling began to fall since they were based on the weight of electronics sold and those electronic items became lighter in weight. This method of covering the cost of electronics recycling resulted in many counties, municipalities and townships that provided drop-off electronic recycling sites being forced to pay for services or cease serving the public.

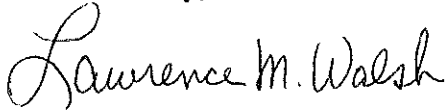
Since September of 2014, representatives of local government from across Illinois met with representatives from the electronic manufacturers, stakeholders and spoke to representatives. This list included: Consumers Electronics Association (CEA), Illinois Retail Merchants Association, Tech America, Panasonic, Hewlett-Packard, National Waste and Recycling Association, Peoria Disposal Company, Illinois Environmental Council, Environmental Law & Policy Center and the IEPA. Numerous issues were discussed and key areas of agreement were found with all stakeholders either having a neutral or supportive position of HB1455 through the assistance of Representative Emily McAsey and Senator Pam Althoff over the course of eight months. As a result, HB1455 passed both Houses unanimously!

Please know that (CEA) was first contacted about the loss of recycling services in September of 2014 and came to a meeting with local government in October of 2014. HB 1455 includes several concessions that the TV and monitor manufacturer members of CEA requested in order for them to agree to support the bill. Recyclers made their interests known throughout the process and, while all their needs could not be met with this legislation, it is believed that it provides a stronger foundation for these local businesses. The recycling of CRT glass is specifically encouraged by both the manufacturers seeking lower cost, environmentally sensitive alternatives to current costly processes; and HB 1455's allowance of Beneficial Use Determination by the IEPA as methods of recycling are approved.

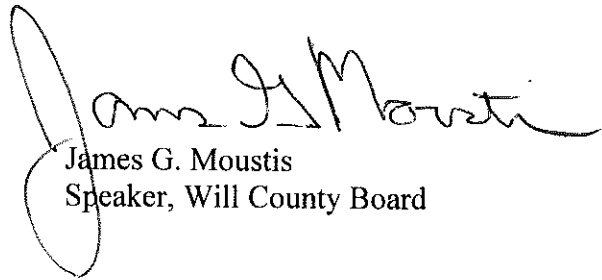
Illinois is the third largest producer of unwanted electronics. These items contain rare earth metals that should be recovered. While it is difficult to imagine the assets in these items will ever cover the full cost of recycling, the manufacturers that sell them have agreed to take responsibility for paying the cost of recycling the residential items. This type of partnership is established in 25 states and HB 1455 is the result of a mutually agreed to short term solution.

Please sign HB 1455. The passage of HB1455 will preserve and create jobs, save millions of dollars for local businesses, support in-state companies and help Illinois residents have options to recycle their electronics and curtail open dumping in Illinois. Should you have any questions regarding this correspondence, or Will County's Electronics Recycling Program, please contact Dean Olson at (815) 774-7891, or Marta Keane at (815) 774-4343.

Sincerely,



Lawrence M. Walsh
Will County Executive



James G. Moustis
Speaker, Will County Board