

**SOUTH SHORE  
RECYCLING  
COOPERATIVE**  
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June 15, 2015

Senate Chair Barbara L'Italien  
Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government  
State House Room 413-C  
Boston, MA 02133

House Chair James J. O'Day  
Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government  
State House Room 540  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman L'Italien and Chairman O'Day:

The South Shore Recycling Cooperative Board is composed of the municipal solid waste managers appointed by each of its fourteen member towns. Last session, the Board voted that I convey its consensus that S940, reintroduced as **S1074, would impose misplaced burdens on some municipal governments**, while having **negligible impact** on the generation of waste and conservation of resources. **We ask that the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government take no action on S1074.**

Only about 35%, (1.8 million tons in 2011<sup>2,3</sup>) of all the disposed tonnage in the state is under the control of municipalities, yet they are the usual target for new waste related rules. About two thirds of the 4.9 million tons<sup>1</sup> of trash generated in Mass. flowed through the private sector in 2011.

A factor that S1074 doesn't account for is that **municipalities are not required by statute to provide solid waste services to their residents, and several don't**. This bill would amount to an unfunded mandate for those that do not.

If a town only provides service only to its municipal departments or schools, for instance, should it be required to manage a tire recycling program? In fact, some SSRC towns don't provide regular tire management for their residents, who can bring them to a tire retailer. Electronic waste can also be brought to retailers.

With an ever more complex waste stream, **the SSRC favors a shift of responsibility for end of life management of difficult to manage items such as tires and electronics, mattresses and**

**paint, to the producers who profit from their sale.** It should not be the primary responsibility of municipalities to manage every consumer product that is sold.

The SSRC and MassRecycle have worked with a group of stakeholders on a much more comprehensive bill, which was re-introduced this session, [H3420](#), **The Universal Recycling Bill**. This would be much more effective at accomplishing the goals of S1074.

**If the Municipalities and Regional Government Committee prefers to consider moving this bill, we suggest either taking out sections 1 and 2, or adding the wording highlighted in red and deleting the strikeouts:**

“A city, town, or district **which provides or contracts for solid waste services on behalf of its residents, schools and/ or municipal buildings** shall establish a **parallel** recycling program for the purpose of recycling any **material prohibited from disposal pursuant to 310CMR 19.017, and which constitutes a percentage of waste in excess of an amount to be determined by MassDEP** ~~type of solid waste including but not limited to paper, glass, metal, rubber, plastics, used tires and compostable waste.~~ The program may be established for groups of cities, towns, or districts upon agreement of all municipalities or districts in a joint program.

Any recycling program established pursuant to this section shall require that all **individuals, departments and entities served** ~~residents, schools and businesses in a city or town~~ separate from their solid waste those recyclables designated.”

Thank you for your consideration.



-Claire L. Galkowski, Executive Director

On behalf of the Board

CC: SSRC Board of Directors  
Senator Robert Hedlund

<sup>1</sup> MassDEP 2011 Solid Waste Update, Table 2

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/recycle/priorities/11swdata.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> MassDEP Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Surveys 2011

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/recycle/priorities/mudata11.xls>

<sup>3</sup> US Census Bureau Massachusetts Quick Facts

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/25000.html>

