

# MUSKEGON COUNTY

M I C H I G A N

16 October 2009

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State Representative Jeff Mayes

P.O. Box 30014

Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Cc: House Energy and Technology Committee Members

**SUBJECT: House Bill No. 5334**

Dear Representative Mayes:

The County of Muskegon Department of Public Works currently operates a landfill under Part 115 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451 as amended. We accept waste from Muskegon County and select neighboring counties for disposal. The landfill gas produced from the landfill is collected and transmitted to an ink/dye manufacturer and a foundry six miles from the landfill. These industries utilize the gas to offset commercial natural gas in their operations.

The Michigan Association of Counties brought House Bill No. 5334 to my attention recently and I would like to voice support for this legislation. I support this legislation because it will lift the ban on accepting yard waste in landfills but does not mandate that landfills accept it. Further, the potential increase in landfill gas that will be made available by decomposing yard waste within the landfill will be a benefit to both Muskegon County and the industries that utilize our gas. Lifting the landfill yard waste ban will also give Muskegon County residents greater disposal options for yard waste.

In my opinion, the benefit of allowing yard waste in the landfill outweighs the negative impact on airspace. In fact, should the Department of Environmental Quality allow the yard waste to be used as an alternate daily cover, the volume loss attributed to accepting yard waste could be substantially mitigated.

Thank you for introducing legislation that has the potential to bolster the landfill renewable energy sector, provide greater disposal options for Michigan residents, and reduce the use of conventional fuels.

Sincerely,



Gregory A. Leverence  
County of Muskegon  
Solid Waste Manager