



PO Box 10070  
Lansing, MI 48901  
kobrien@michiganrecycles.org  
517.974.3672  
www.michiganrecycles.org

May 23, 2012

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**Mary Jo Van Natter**  
*ReCommunity Recycling*

**Kerrin O'Brien**  
Executive Director  
*Michigan Recycling Coalition*

**House Bill 5660, Sponsored by Representatives Stamas & Segal**

Honorable Representatives Crawford, Stamas, Segal, and members of the House Regulatory Reform Committee:

While the Michigan Recycling Coalition is not in a position to take a stand on HB 5660 at this time we would like to provide a perspective on successful materials recovery and recycling, and its relation to the Bottle Bill.

As many in the industry already know, the Bottle Bill has proven itself to be very effective in capturing the material it targets. That material however, makes up only 1.5% of Michigan's entire waste stream. And, it is the burden of the retailers and distributors that collect and transport the containers for processing.

Additionally, the Bottle Bill system operates in parallel to curbside and drop-off recycling programs across the state that handle the vast majority of material recovered from households. Michigan's recycling systems are capable of handling a wide variety of materials in large volumes but depend on the revenue generated from the sale of that material to off-set operational costs. When materials, especially higher value materials such as PET and aluminum, are diverted from the general recycling stream the cost to process the remaining materials is even higher.

The MRC will oppose any change to the Bottle Bill that does not seek to invest in a comprehensive solid waste, recycling, and composting management system that maximizes the convenient, cost-effective collection and recycling of a growing volume and number of materials.

Furthermore, we have concern that exemptions to the Bottle Bill for difficult to recycle packaging will only encourage the development and use of difficult to recycle packaging to avoid a bottle deposit, at a time when corporate culture is shifting toward producer responsibility for end-of-life management of these products. *If sustainable markets exist for the sale of end-of-life products and packaging then these materials should be captured and recycled in the systems that exist to do so.*

I appreciate your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, (517) 974-3672.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kerrin O'Brien'.

Kerrin O'Brien  
Executive Director