

Bernice Berens

From: "Bernice Berens" <ibcompost@allcom.net>
 To: "Bernice" <ibcompost@allcom.net>
 Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2012 12:15 PM
 Subject: HB 4265 and HB 4266
Good Morning Mr. Jones

Bernice Berens
 IB Compost
 oppose

Could you please copy my e-mail for all of the Senators that set on this committee

I would like to address HB 4265 and HB 4266

I own and operate a compost site in Ottawa County

I have managed my site since 1989. My husband and I wanted to start a compost site to benefit the environment and also fulfill the request of the State of Michigan on the bill to ban yardwaste in the landfills. We donated our 30 acre farm to a compost site, we started out small and have grown over the years. We have always been DNR/DEQ permitted. We have stayed Ag, and would love to continue composting for a very long time. Many Disposal companies use our site for the yardwaste they pick up all summer, landscapers also use our site. We have many residents come to our site with yardwaste and also buy compost for their gardens, flower beds and lawns. Landscapers use compost for their businesses. We have large trucking companies that come and buy compost for jobs that need good topsoil. We have over 60 companies that use our site and over 100 residents that bring yardwaste and buy compost from us.

We have worked with Michigan State University with their Master Gardening and Master Composting classes. We are at the present working with Grand Valley University on their Master Gardening courses. They want to plant organic and you can't do organic without Compost. Our universities know how good compost. We also donate compost to Community Gardens that many area church plant to help feed the poor. Last year the Ottawa County Youth Home got compost from us the help the young people of Ottawa County plant a garden and grow their own food. I received about 25 Thank You cards, stating how great they felt working in the dirt and eating something they had grown. (They call me MRS. DIRT) which I love to hear.

If these two bills pass and the yardwaste goes back into the landfills it will not only put a lot of people out of work but a lot of compost sites will go bankrupt. The landfills will increase their tipping fees, the landscapers will not be able to afford higher fees and will go out of business. The residents will have to pay more for the curb side pick-up of the trash (yardwaste will go back into the trash containers) The disposal companies will be forced to raise their prices and in turn will raise the prices for the residents to have their trash and yardwaste picked up at the curb. In the long run it will be the residents who pay the price again. Grass when it is wet weigh about one ton per 2 yards of grass, at \$35.00 per ton and could increase to at lease \$50.00 per ton, no one will be able to afford curb side pick up of trash and yardwaste.

The recycling program that Michigan started back in the 1990's was and still is a great program. Why do we want to take a 25 year step backward. Our streets and road are basicly clean of trash and if these bills pass, people will start to dump trash along the roads again.

The landfills will fill up quickly with a added 1.8 million tons of yardwaste each year. That is what the composters kept out of the landfills last year (2011).

The company bring these bills see how much yardwaste is kept out of the landfills each year. Times the tons by \$50.00 per ton and their eyes light up. Compost DOES NOT make METHANE GAS. Methane has a smell about it, composting does not.

PLEASE DO NOT FALL INTO THE TRAP OF THE BIG LANDFILL BUSINESSES AND PASS THESE BILLS.

PUT A STOP TO THIS AND LET THE COMPOSTERS OF MICHIGAN CONTINUE TO DO A GREAT JOB AND CONTINUE TO MAKE A GREAT TOPSOIL.

MICHIGAN IS STARTING TO RECOVER WITH THE JOB MARKET, WE DON'T NEED TO PUT GOOD BUSINESSES OUT OF BUSINESS

Thank you