



## MICHIGAN CHAPTER

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October 17, 2011

To: Senator Casperson and members of the  
Senate Natural Resources, Environment  
and Great Lakes Committee

### **Sierra Club Urges a NO vote on HB 4875 (LaFontaine) – Elimination of Secondary Liner and Leachate Collection System**

Dear Senator Casperson and members of the Senate Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes Committee,

We appreciate you taking time to consider our position on HB 4875.

The Sierra Club urges you to vote NO on HB 4875 (LaFontaine), a bill that would remove the requirement that a landfill used in a research development demonstration project (RDDP) have a second liner and leachate system. A second liner and leachate system safeguards the environment in case the primary liner and leachate system are not functioning properly. The requirement for second liners has come out of direct experience with leaking landfills and is a critical measure to protect surrounding property owners and communities from harm. A second liner and leachate system also allows for monitoring how well the primary liner and leachate system are working. This is exceedingly important for landfills where decomposition of trash occurs through the addition of water and oxygen. Cleaning up environmental contamination is a more expensive proposition than preventing predictable pollution, and the universal requirement for second liners is an important requirement for protecting your citizens.

**For these reasons, we urge you to vote NO on HB 4875. Votes pertaining to this bill will be included in the Sierra Club's legislative scorecard.**

Sincerely,

Mike Berkowitz  
Chapter Organizer  
Michigan Sierra Club