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October 29, 2013

Honorable Senator Nofs and
Members of the Senate Energy & Technology Committee

RE: Senate Bill 314

For more than 30 years, the Michigan Recycling Coalition has supported a growing industry, one that seeks to transform our waste into valued commodities. The Coalition authored a report in 2011* that sought to quantify the value of recycling, composting and beneficial utilization for the state of Michigan.

If the state were to reach its recycling goal of 50%, the value of that material alone for Michigan's economy starts at \$500,000,000 a year. Governor Snyder sees the potential and made recycling a priority at this time last year.

According to the EPA, about 28% of the waste stream is yard trimmings and food debris. Current estimates show Michigan recycling and composting at only 14.5%. As you can see, successful management of Michigan's organics is a key part of reaching our recycling goal, and there's plenty of opportunity there.

Michigan businesses and communities are also working hard to accomplish their own recycling, sustainability and landfill-free goals and quite frankly they won't be able to accomplish their goals without the support of the compost industry.

As you'll hear today, this bill will decimate the industry and thwart effort by Michigan communities and companies to achieve sustainability initiatives. Composting is a low-tech, low emission, highly sustainable activity that's happening across the state. Composters stand to lose their raw materials to the one landfill company who stands to profit from an old waste management model.

Recycling and composting have the unique ability to link environmental protection and economic health. Without a full acknowledgement of this critical role and the development of public policies designed to capitalize on the economic role that composting can play, this important industry will remain less than optimized and underutilized as tool to protect Michigan's environment and enhance Michigan's economy.

Recycler and composters throughout Michigan urge you to uphold the Yard Waste Ban and support the industry that's already contributing to recycling in Michigan.

Sincerely,

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*www.michiganrecycles.org/images/pdf/stateofrecycling2011mrc.pdf