

October 3, 2005

Honorable Bob Smith
216 Stelton Road
Suite E5
Piscataway, NJ 08854-32384

RE: SENATE, NO. 2615

Dear Senator Smith:

On behalf of the New Jersey Association of Counties, I am pleased to inform you that on September 30, 2005 the Association's Board of Directors voted to support S-2615, which establishes the "Recycling Enhancement Act."

As you know, this legislation levies upon the owners or operators of all solid waste facilities a recycling tax of \$3.00 per ton on solid waste accepted for disposal or transfer at such facilities. Revenues collected from the tax should generate approximately \$34.0 million per year and will be deposited into the State Recycling Fund for county and municipal recycling initiatives. Importantly, this legislation also repeals the solid waste services tax, which currently imposes a tax of \$1.50 per ton on all solid waste accepted for disposal at sanitary landfill facilities.

The Association supports this legislation simply because it provides a stable, dedicated, and long-term source of revenue to help counties reinvigorate recycling in their communities. Moreover, the recycling tax levied by this legislation establishes a more equitable manner by which grants are made available and distributed to counties than the current solid waste services tax. Please note that although the Association supports this legislation, additional measures should be considered to protect the State Recycling Fund as a dedicated source of revenue, and one that may not be utilized to subsidize general operating expenses of the State.

With this in mind, I look forward to working with you on this important piece of legislation as it makes its way through the Legislature and onto the Governor's Desk. Thank you for your time and consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact either the Association's Legislative Director John G. Donnadio, Esq. or myself at (609) 394-3467 with any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,

Celeste Carpiano
Executive Director

cc: NJAC Board of Directors
Gary Sondermeyer, Chief of Staff, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection