



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Terry C. Anderson, Director
Laura D. Rose, Deputy Director

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

FROM: Representative Spencer Black, Chair

RE: Final Mail Ballot for the Special Committee on Single-Use Plastics

DATE: December 3, 2010

You have received the final ballot for approval of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Single-Use Plastics. One of the drafts is slightly changed from what we discussed in our last meeting. At the end of the last meeting, we discussed large-volume plastic films used in agricultural and marine applications. The idea was raised to charge a fee on the sale of these materials to raise revenues for grants to support the development of programs to recycle large volume plastic film.

As David and Larry have worked on drafting this idea into a bill, they have found that the cost to administer such a fee would potentially be greater than revenues that would be collected from the fee. Given this situation, it seems to make more sense to use the tipping fee which is already collected for recycling for this purpose.

One of the committee's drafts, WLC: 0023/1, redirects landfill tipping fee revenues to grant programs that support recycling activities, one of the principal purposes for which that fee was created. I think it is in keeping with the committee's previous decisions to use this same revenue source for grants to support the development of programs to recycle large-volume plastic films. For this reason, I have directed staff, in redrafting WLC: 0023/1, to include this new grant program along with the other recycling grants. I have also directed them to include pallet-wrap in the definition of "large-volume plastic film." Let me stress that this new draft will not raise fees or use general purpose revenue.

I believe that these revised instructions are in keeping with the committee's previous policy choices. If you concur and are comfortable approving the new, revised draft with these changes, we can complete the committee's work with this ballot. If you strongly disagree, contact me and I will consider convening the committee one more time to discuss this point. However, I am hopeful that another meeting will not be necessary.

In closing, I would like to thank you once again for your service on this committee. It has been a pleasure getting to know and working with each of you.

SB:jal