



Wisconsin Association of Fairs

November 15, 2010

Dear Committee Members,

The Wisconsin Association of Fairs would oppose WLC:0024/1; single-use items at public events. Here are a few reasons we oppose this act.

First, it would be cost prohibitive to require fairs to separate items and deliver them to a facility that will accept recycling. The public had a hard time adapting to putting only recyclables in recyclable bins. Adding another bin for patrons to use, will likely turn into another garbage can and defeat the purpose. It wasn't until specific containers were made available for plastic soda bottles, that people began putting less garbage in the recyclable bins. What type of bin would you provide that would accept plastic forks, cups, and bags without containing the leftover food product that was in it? The additional expense fairs will incur to provide separate receptacles and the staff needed to be sure they are being used properly will be costly. We believe it will be extremely difficult to find facilities willing to accept these materials as well. Not every county fair is held in a location close to a recycling facility. Not all recycling facilities will accept the same materials. This expense will affect the fairs greatly.

Second, educating the fairgoers to use appropriate bins and policing it would be difficult. With the number of patrons attending fairs it is already very demanding to keep up with the amount of garbage and recycling that is disposed. Imagine a family of four attending a fair and it's time to throw out the garbage after lunch. They'll likely stack all of their garbage together and have one person throw it away. Separating a few plastic forks from the pile of garbage will be the last thing they'll take time to do as they've got their family to attend to. Currently cities and villages have different policies on whether or not you can combine recyclables. Some require you to separate recyclables for pick up while other locations do post sorts. There are 76 fairs in Wisconsin with 76 different ordinances on the current recycling. Most fair goers attend more than one fair. If there is no standard from city to city, educating the fair goers and vendors on all of the recycling rules will be difficult.

Lastly, requiring all fairs and their vendors to use specific products that are compostable will be costly. Most vendors travel from state to state and cannot change their inventory to comply with each states' rules. They only have so much storage space and are on the road for months at a time. Imagine a service club or a church group selling food. Every package of buns they open will have a recyclable bag. Do they need to be recycled? They only have so much space for garbage and recycling containers, now we're going to add more? The extra staff needed to verify that vendors are using the proper cups and forks will be costly.

We don't think a fair is the place to start implementing the separate disposal of single-use items and oppose this bill. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jayne Buttk

Jayne Buttk, Executive Secretary

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**2010 Fairest
of the Fairs**

Natalie Salkowski

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