Recycling Association of Minnesota
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RecycleMinnesota.org

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Wayne Gjerde
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road N.
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Dear Mr. Gjerde;
The Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) is committed to promoting resource conservation through waste prevention, reuse, recycling, composting and purchasing practices using the most cost effective and environmentally sound methods available in Minnesota. We have over 250 members who are professionals in the recycling field who have very diverse interests. Due to the nature of our membership composition, RAM will remain officially neutral on the container deposit discussion. As such we as an organization focus on education and outreach.

We believe that in a complex modern recycling system, such as is place in Minnesota there can be many solutions to increasing recycling, not only of beverage containers, but for other materials as well. Some examples include increased recycling availability for public events, public spaces and increased commercial recycling-which would recycle many other types of material in addition to beverage containers.

In keeping with our mission, we as an organization, have been diligently working on this issue to help provide a solution to public space beverage container recycling through our Message in a Bottle™ program, which is a community based recycling program for businesses to participate free of charge. This program contracts the day to day operations to vocational centers which employ individuals with disabilities. We currently have approximately 300 convenience stores participating in the program statewide, each convenience store collects on average 1,500 pounds of beverage container material annually for recycling. In 2014, we plan to further expand the program across the Twin Cities metro area to an additional 60 convenience stores.

We support recycling solutions that make sense environmentally as well as economically. We look forward to continued discussions on this matter; if RAM can help facilitate discussion and bring consensus in any way please feel free to contact us.

Kindest Regards;

Marcus Zbinden
RAM Board Chair

* Affiliations on letterhead for identification purposes only.