



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

May 17, 2006

Dear Midwest Regional Electronic Waste Initiative Stakeholders:

This is to advise you that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) supports the enclosed Midwest Electronic Waste Policy Statement, developed by representatives from the states of Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin environmental agencies, as part of the Midwest Regional Electronic Waste Initiative (Midwest Initiative).

The Midwest Initiative participants based their electronic waste policy statement on recently developed model legislation by the Northeast Recycling Coalition and the Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments at the request of legislators in that region. The purpose of working from that model was to develop legislation that could be adopted by a large number of states providing a harmonized regional program for managing electronic waste. The Midwest Policy proposes that manufacturers be responsible for operating a recycling system for collected consumer electronics. This is similar to legislation recently passed in Washington, being moved forward in Minnesota and New York, and being considered by the Pennsylvania Legislature.

Although there are still disagreements among manufacturer and retail stakeholders concerning the best approach for a comprehensive recycling system for consumer electronics, several states including California, Maine, Maryland, and Washington have passed legislation with varying approaches to manage their electronic waste. There is a legitimate concern that the current state-by-state approach will be unnecessarily confusing and expensive for industry, government and consumers

Experience to date has shown that the type of electronics recycling system adopted is not nearly as critical as the importance of harmonizing systems among the states. With this in mind, the MDEQ is supporting the Midwest Initiative in the hope that states in the Midwest, as well as states outside the immediate region, can come to agreement to work together to form a super regional approach and ultimately a national model for managing electronic waste.

If you require further information, please contact Ms. Lucy Doroshko, Recycling Specialist, Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance Section, Environmental Science and Services Division, at 517-373-1322, or by e-mail at doroshkl@michigan.gov; or you may contact me.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Chester
Director
517-373-7917

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Stanley F. Pruss, Deputy Director, MDEQ
Ms. JoAnn Merrick, Senior Executive Assistant to the Director, MDEQ
Ms. Amy A. Butler, MDEQ
Ms. Lucy Doroshko, MDEQ