

Monroe County Legislature

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August 13, 2007

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
Rochester, New York 14614

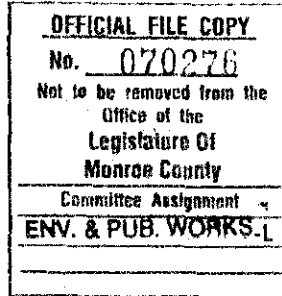
Re: Establishing a Legislative Recycling Commission

Honorable Legislators:

Every year, Monroe County recycles about 60,000 tons of plastics, glass, and paper products. That equals 60,000 tons of materials that are diverted from our local landfills; 60,000 tons of materials that re-enter the economy to be reused. Monroe County has been a leader in local recycling efforts, exemplified by the aggressive public education campaigns featuring our recycling mascot Chet the Cheetah in addition with expanding electronic recycling programs. Certainly, there are several initiatives we can be proud to call our own.

However, community members have raised concerns that Monroe County is not doing enough to recycle a wider range of plastic products, beyond the typical PET, polyethylene terephthalate (#1), and HDPE, high density polyethylene (#2), plastics. Over the past two decades, recycling has become a mainstream practice encouraged in all households, through national and local campaigns of America Recycles Day to Reuse-A-Shoe. It is incumbent upon this Honorable Body to do our part and build on this public momentum. Currently, County law allows only PET and HDPE (#1s and #2s) to be recycled.

Therefore we propose that this Honorable Body convene a Legislative Recycling Commission, to review current County statutes and make recommendations as to whether changes should be made. This commission's discussion should include, but not be limited to, expanding County law to be inclusive of all recyclable plastic (from #1s through #7s), incentives to increase commercial recycling, and the potential adoption of closed-flow control ordinances for waste haulers. An article in the *Democrat and Chronicle* reported that in 2006 Monroe County recycled 4,693 tons of plastics, a decrease from 17,157 tons



in 2005. As the law-making body of Monroe County, it is fitting for this Honorable Body to take a more hands-on role in local recycling efforts.

The Commission shall have 8 members and be composed of two (2) members of the majority caucus, two (2) members of the minority caucus, one member (1) designated by the County Executive, two (2) representatives from the County Department of Environmental Services, and one (1) member representing the Solid Waste and Recycling Law Advisory Committee.

This Commission shall report back to this Honorable Body after two (2) legislative cycles with recommendations at legislative acts to help the County's recycling program.

This proposed resolution will have no immediate impact on the revenues and/or expenditures of the 2007 Monroe County Budget.

We recommend that this matter be referred to the appropriate committee(s) for favorable action by Your Honorable Body.

Respectfully Submitted,

Travis R. Heider
Travis R. Heider
Legislator - District 14

Carla M. Palumbo
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Democratic Leader

Harry B. Bronson
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Assistant Democratic Leader

Stephanie Polowe Aldersley
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Legislator - District 16

Ted O'Brien
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Legislator - District 17

Carrie M. Andrews
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Legislator - District 21

Steve Eckel
Steve Eckel
Legislator - District 26