

MISSOURI RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

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January 27, 2026

Missouri Senate  
201 W Capitol Ave.  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Senators,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Missouri Recycling Association, an organization dedicated to advancing responsible recycling, waste reduction, and environmental stewardship, we respectfully submit this letter in opposition to Senate Bill 1586.

Our organization works closely with local governments, recyclers, community partners, and Missouri residents to build efficient, locally driven recycling and solid waste systems that protect public health, conserve resources, and support local economies. After reviewing the summary of SB 1586, which proposes modifications to solid waste management requirements, we are concerned that the bill could reduce local efficiency, disrupt effective programs, and create unintended negative consequences for recycling efforts across the state.

Missouri's recycling and waste management systems function best when decisions are made at the local level, where communities understand their unique needs, infrastructure, and economic realities. SB 1586 would disproportionately impact rural communities, where recycling programs already operate with limited resources. Local education initiatives, grant-supported programs, and community collection events would likely be eliminated, effectively ending recycling access in many rural areas. These changes would also result in the loss of local jobs, including those supported by sheltered workshops, further reducing economic efficiency at the community level.

Missouri communities have made meaningful progress in expanding recycling access, reducing landfill use, and implementing cost-effective local waste management plans. Altering solid waste management requirements without clear protection for existing programs, robust stakeholder engagement, or evidence-based safeguards risks undermining these locally efficient systems. Such changes could increase administrative burdens, shift costs to municipalities and nonprofit partners, and reduce the return on past public investments.

While SB 1586 reallocates funding, it does not reduce overall costs or improve system efficiency. The proposed \$5 million allocation is insufficient to remediate even a single landfill, making it unlikely that meaningful resources would remain available for local grants. With approximately 30 abandoned landfills across the state, funding would be

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absorbed by cleanup efforts, effectively eliminating grant support for community recycling programs and reducing local capacity to manage waste efficiently.

Recycling is not only an environmental priority, but a practical and economic one. Well-designed local recycling systems reduce landfill dependency, lower long-term waste management costs, and support jobs throughout Missouri. Policies that centralize decision-making, disrupt proven local programs, or introduce uncertainty ultimately reduce efficiency and place additional strain on already limited local resources.

We urge members of the Missouri Senate to consider the broader impacts of SB 1586 on local efficiency, community sustainability, and responsible waste management. We encourage collaboration with stakeholders directly involved in recycling and solid waste management before advancing significant changes to current systems.

For these reasons, we respectfully oppose Senate Bill 1586 and ask that you vote against its advancement. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns further or provide additional information.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors  
Missouri Recycling Association