

MISSOURI RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

WWW.MORA.ORG



January 27, 2026

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

Dear Representatives,

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 House Bill 2761.

Our organization works closely with local governments, recyclers, community partners, and Missouri residents to build efficient, locally driven recycling and solid waste diversion that protects public health, conserves resources, and supports local economies. After reviewing the summary of HB 2761, which eliminates solid waste management districts, we are convinced that the bill would reduce local efficiency, disrupt effective programs, and negatively impact recycling rates 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. HB 2761 would disproportionately impact rural communities, where recycling programs already operate with limited resources. Local education initiatives, grant-supported programs, and community collection events would be eliminated, ending recycling access in many rural areas. These changes would result in the loss of local jobs, including sheltered workshops.

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

The only thing HB 2761 accomplishes is reallocation of funding and eliminates the solid waste management districts effectively "robbing Peter to pay Paul. 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 absorbed by cleanup efforts,

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effectively eliminating grant support for community recycling programs and reducing local capacity to manage waste efficiently.

Recycling is not just an environmental priority; it is an economical and practical 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 House of Representatives to consider the broader impacts of HB 2761 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 House Bill 2761 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