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2010 NOV -1 AM 9:26

Great Lakes Water Authority
735 Randolph St., Ste 1900
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ATTN: Sue McCormick, Chief Executive Officer

We know that controlling cost is vital in today's competitive economy. That is why we wanted to bring to your attention a proposed state law that could dramatically raise the cost of disposing of your solid waste in Michigan.

State lawmakers are now considering a proposed 1,200-percent tax increase on all generators wastes that go into Michigan landfills. Your solid waste disposal costs will increase substantially under Senate Bill 943, which is expected to come up for consideration in the Legislature after the November election. The bill has been introduced by Sen. Mike Nofs, R-Battle Creek.

This legislation stems from Gov. Rick Snyder's desire to fund major environmental programs – programs we support, and which we believe many in our state can back. The problem is that the proposed funding source – raising the state's mandatory tipping fee from 12 cents a cubic yard to \$4.44 per ton – is not an appropriate or sustainable way to pay for these programs.

Of the \$79 million the governor's office expects to raise annually from this fee, \$45 million would be used to address existing and expected toxic waste sites – something that has nothing to do with solid waste disposal.

All of these are useful programs. But their cost should fall more appropriately on either those who caused the problem, those who benefit from the programs, or, in the alternative, more equally on state taxpayers as a whole. Asking those who responsibly dispose of their solid waste to bear all the burden of this program is not appropriate. It also may have other consequences, as the higher prices encourage improper disposal of wastes to avoid the higher fees.

We urge you to contact the bill's primary sponsor, Sen. Mike Nofs (R-Battle Creek) by emailing him at senmnofs@senate.michigan.gov or by calling his office at (517) 373-6920 and ask him to find other sources of financing those programs. Putting the burden on entities such as yours, which are acting as good environmental stewards in ensuring your solid waste goes into safe, well-regulated landfills, is not an appropriate or thoughtful method of financing environmental cleanups. Gov. Snyder's office can also be contacted by phone (517-373-3400) or by email (governorsoffice@michigan.gov).

WASTE MANAGEMENT OF MICHIGAN, INC.
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Q&A on Senate Bill 943

Question: What does Senate Bill 943 do?

Answer: Senate Bill 943 raises taxes on you, the customer. Overall, the bill would raise taxes on solid waste disposal by more than 1,200 percent to finance environmental cleanups, invest in state parks and provide for water monitoring needs that have nothing to do with responsible handling of non-hazardous wastes.

Q: What would that mean for customers?

A: As introduced, SB 943 would raise the fee for disposing of solid waste (known as a tipping fee) from 36 cents per ton to \$4.44 per ton. The companies, governments, non-profit organizations and residents who use landfills to responsibly dispose of solid waste would see fees go up more than 11 times over current costs – a 1,200-percent trash tax increase.

Q: Why does Waste Management oppose SB 943?

A: While Waste Management recognizes the importance of tackling the environmental cleanup projects Gov. Rick Snyder includes in his Renew MI proposal, it doesn't agree that a 1,200-percent tax increase on solid waste disposal is the way to pay for them.

Q: What is the timeline for the legislation?

A: Gov. Snyder and those supporting SB 943 want it to be passed by the House and Senate and signed into law by the governor by the end of 2018 — just a few weeks from now.

Q: If it's passed, when would the changes in SB 943 take effect?

A: If the bill is given immediate effect, it likely would take effect in early January 2019. If it isn't, it would take effect 90 days after the governor signs it — late March or early April 2019.

Q: How can customers have their say on this issue?

A: They can contact the bill's primary sponsor, Sen. Mike Nofs (R-Battle Creek) by emailing him at senmnofs@senate.michigan.gov or by calling his office at (517) 373-6920. Gov. Snyder's office can be contacted by phone (517-373-3400) or by email (governorsoffice@michigan.gov).

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