

March 25, 2021

Chair Howell, Vice-Chairs Markkanen and Sowerby and Members of the House Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bills 4454-4461 on behalf of the Michigan Municipal League.

After several years of discussion and collaboration, the Michigan Municipal League is proud to have been both a part of this effort and to see these bills considered by this committee. The League has been historically supportive of the Part 115 rewrite and while this term our Board of Trustees has not formalized our position, we are happy to extend our support for House Bills 4454-4461 as introduced.

Developing as strong a consensus as possible, the legislation fairly provides local control to communities in the aspects of planning the Materials Management Plan (MMP) by meaningfully incorporating various manners of local government participation, from the county to municipal level. This is an important aspect of a process that will uniquely support the diverse needs of communities throughout the state.

The League strongly opposes any changes to HB 4461 that would strip appropriate local control and participation from local communities in either the MMP process or through local ordinances as suggested by some stakeholders. Incorporating participation and input from both the host community and respective adjacent communities is a beneficial revision to our solid waste policy. Consideration for communities adjacent to county boundaries is fair, respectful and provides a proactive and responsible mechanism to gather input from all potentially impacted parties.

It is not uncommon for facilities/entities to be governed by local ordinances related to hours of operations, noise, odor, landscaping, and litter. These are factors that directly impact residents and the community where local enforcement is appropriate and at many times, necessary. The process to implement a local ordinance is incredibly transparent and provides many opportunities for input and feedback from residents and industry. Oversight through local ordinances allows for more immediate enforcement in conjunction with the support provided by EGLE and provides consistency across the various materials management facilities in a community.

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In addition, we are supportive of the options proposed for regional collaboration in the materials management plan, the regulation of solid waste burning, incineration, composting, and the availability of grants and other forms financial assistance to support municipalities as they reach their recycling and other sustainability goals that are included within the package before you.

We recognize that along with the benefits of this legislation, there could be increased costs and service demands on some local governments, especially those operating their own materials management facilities. However, the legislation before you represents positive changes that are long overdue and required for our collective sustainability efforts and to more efficiently manage waste stream materials throughout the state. We greatly appreciate the efforts of the chair and all of the engaged parties to bring this legislation forward.

Respectfully,

Herasanna Richards  
Legislative Associate  
Michigan Municipal League

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