



P.O. Box 2107 Midlothian, VA 23112
Tel: 804-302-4231 Fax: 804-302-4241 www.vrarecycles.org

January 30, 2012

Senate of Virginia
General Assembly Building
Capitol Square
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Senator:

The Virginia Recycling Association (VRA) is the Commonwealth's leading organization committed to promoting recycling as a fundamental part of conserving resources and reducing solid waste. Our membership is diverse—citizens, local government litter and recycling coordinators, and business and industry professionals.

The VRA and its supporters urge you to oppose SB 676 because it is bad for economic development and local waste reduction programs. SB 676 reduces the reporting for recycling data by localities from once a year to once every four years. Presently, the details submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality each year by the solid waste planning units are the only source of information regarding recycling activities in the Commonwealth.

Maintaining up-to-date information on the recyclable materials collected and processed in Virginia is critical to business interests. Businesses interested in constructing recycling facilities, processing plants, or end-use manufacturing facilities need this information to determine whether or not adequate feedstock is available in Virginia. A wide variety of products and industries rely on a supply of recycled feedstock. In the last year alone, VRA is aware of two instances where interested parties requested state-wide recycling data. Out-of-date information would not have been valuable to these businesses, and could have negatively impacted their interest in moving to or expanding in Virginia.

- Owens-Illinois, which currently operates two glass bottle manufacturing plants in Virginia, needed recyclable glass generation figures to evaluate whether to build an \$8 million glass beneficiation plant in the Commonwealth or continue to import glass from the Northeast and the Midwest.
- A large international company that employs thousands of people visited Virginia to explore the opportunity to bring their business here. Their process needs a dependable supply of plastic flake, which is largely derived from recycled bottles. They requested information on volumes, quality, and geographical distribution of availability as key components of their business analysis.

In addition to the need for recycling data for economic development efforts, localities and their solid waste planning units use recycling data to analyze the success of their programs, project

budgets, and estimate future service needs in their communities. For example, prices for recycling commodities are posted on the markets on a weekly basis. Applying four-year-old tonnages to ever-changing commodity prices will not benefit the people of Virginia.

The Virginia Recycling Association again urges you to OPPOSE SB 676 because outdated information is harmful to economic development and hurts local programs.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions about this or any other matter related to recycling and litter prevention.

Most Sincerely,

Debbie Devine, President, Virginia Recycling Association

Tim Lee, Policy Chair, Virginia Recycling Association