



The Association of Plastic Recyclers

APR POSITION STATEMENT

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE: Landfill Bans

APR POSITION: The Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR) and its members collectively represent more than 90% of the postconsumer plastics recycling capacity in North America. APR members have a direct interest in the enhancement of postconsumer plastics recycling.

The APR supports legislation to ban postconsumer plastic bottles from being landfilled.

Value: In the past several years, the recycling rate in North America has remained constant. Postconsumer plastics recyclers support the expansion of collection and recycling of all plastic bottles. APR supports legislation to implement landfill bans on plastic bottles that may otherwise be suitable for recycling.

Current Legislative Activity: North Carolina has passed and New York and Wisconsin have considered landfill bans. Other States may consider landfill bans in 2006-2007.

Key Messages:

- The current plastic bottle recycling infrastructure is significantly underutilized.
- Landfill bans are an innovative method designed to enhance the inherent value of the current municipal recycling programs and aid State recycling initiatives.
- Provides economic development opportunities.

Challenges:

- The solid waste industry opposes this legislation.
- Local governments may interpret landfill bans as an unfunded mandate.
- The potential exists for the recycling stream to become more contaminated

Key Actions:

- APR Communications: publish this position on the website, offer to outside publications.
- APR Promotion: present position at conferences and other venues as appropriate.
- APR Government Relations: As legislatures propose bills for landfill bans APR will: Write letters of support, provide testimony, provide press releases, submit comments for the public record and generate letters from member companies.
- APR Collaboration: Create opportunities with other stakeholders to identify and offer means of funding the collections and enforcements costs of a ban.