



June 3, 2009

TO: Representative Spencer Black, Chair
Members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources

FR: David Krahn
Legislative Policy Advisor

RE: Assembly Bill 258 - Disposal of Used Automotive Engine Oil Filters

Assembly Bill 258 is consistent with other bans of hazardous material from landfills, including motor oil, lead acid batteries and appliances that contain Freon. It is also consistent with recommendations of the Department of Commerce (2005), the Council on Recycling, and the Governor's Task Force on Waste Materials Recovery and Disposal (Dec. 2006). The bill will reduce disposal of a valuable resource (oil) in landfills, help protect the environment, and add value to businesses that collect and recycle oil filters and absorbents in Wisconsin.

According to data gathered in 2005 by a Department of Commerce study committee, Wisconsin generates about 9 million used oil filters from non-commercial vehicles a year. Only about 20% of these are currently recycled. A follow up report noted that there has been a slight decrease in recycling since 2005. It is estimated that over 800,000 gallons of used oil are being released into Wisconsin landfills annually with discarded used oil filters.

Waukesha County recently coordinated a competitive bid for 15 municipalities with recycling drop-off sites where residents can deposit their used motor oil. We wanted to help communities add oil filter recycling at these sites, due to environmental concerns with disposing of used oil filters in landfills. Based on recycling over 66,000 gallons of used motor oil, we estimate that about 65,000 used oil filters or 230 55-gallon drums will be recycled annually from the 15 sites, recovering an additional 2,300 gallons of used oil.

Six companies submitted proposals and the winning bid was a very favorable price- revenue of 65 cents per gallon for used oil and no charge for oil filter and antifreeze recycling. This indicates that the infrastructure is well established for recycling used oil filters in Wisconsin.

Waukesha County urges your support of Assembly Bill 258.

Thank you for your consideration.