

**Whereas,** The Michigan Recycling Coalition (MRC) is a non-profit environmental organization whose *Mission Statement* includes fostering “effective resource use in Michigan by developing, supporting and educating a coalition... working toward the common goals of waste reduction, recycling, reuse, composting and recycled-content purchasing” (emphasis added) and;

**Whereas,** the *MRC 21<sup>st</sup> Century Vision* includes “a future when all... organic nutrients return to the soil through composting” and;

**Whereas,** the *MRC Policy Statements* include the following:

- “The Michigan Recycling Coalition endorses and supports a hierarchy of waste management preferences that gives first priority to source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting to minimize the amount of waste to be otherwise managed... Other forms of waste disposal, such as waste-to-energy facilities and sanitary landfilling, are less preferable in terms of resource conservation and environmental protection.”
- “Composting is a viable strategy, equal in importance with recycling, for achieving effective reduction of the waste stream.”
- “Source-separated, recyclable and compostable materials diverted from municipal solid waste (MSW) for which recycling markets exist, should not be considered solid waste” and;

**Whereas,** according to data from Michigan’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Electric Energy Plan, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy, landfilling yard clippings will not have an appreciable impact on energy production or consumption and;

**Whereas,** allowing yard clippings, other than a de minimis amount, to be disposed of in Michigan landfills, will have a detrimental impact on Michigan’s composting industry, likely resulting in a net loss of jobs in Michigan and;

**Whereas,** allowing yard clippings in landfills runs counter to sophisticated waste management trends throughout the country and the world, placing Michigan at a competitive disadvantage with regard to the development and implementation of state-of-the-art and emerging technologies and;

**Whereas,** allowing yard clippings in landfills will accelerate the depletion of existing landfill space in Michigan, eventually causing an increase in disposal costs for Michigan’s businesses, cities, and residents and;

**Whereas,** landfills designed to capture methane still emit considerable amounts of methane into the atmosphere, resulting in a negative impact on the environment.

**Now, Therefore, Let It Be Resolved** that the Michigan Recycling Coalition Board of Directors finds that allowing yard clippings, other than a de minimis amount, to be disposed of in Michigan landfills, is in conflict with the *MRC Mission Statement, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Vision, and Policy Statements*, and;

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Michigan Recycling Coalition Board of Directors opposes any solid waste management approach that increases the amount of organic material disposed of in Michigan landfills.