

February 14, 2017

The Honorable Keith Ellison
Member of Congress
2263 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The National Recycling Coalition (NRC) supports and endorses the *"Zero Waste Development and Expansion Act of 2017"*. The NRC believes that in conjunction with source reduction, reuse, and composting; the recycling of valuable materials is essential to a sustainable environmental, energy, and economic future.

The *"Zero Waste Development and Expansion Act of 2017"* will help communicate the following American environmental values:

- Recycling is resource management, not waste management.
- Recycling programs must be designed to minimize contamination in consideration of the needs of upstream users.
- Thermal combustion is not recycling.
- Recycling is a value-added activity to our communities, states, and country that creates "green," well-paying jobs, boosting a domestic economy committed to sustainability.

The National Recycling Coalition supports the ambitions and programs proposed in the *"Zero Waste Development and Expansion Act of 2017"* as it creates domestic jobs through the rebuilding of the American recycling infrastructure. The bill also is designed to increase community knowledge of effective waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting.

It is critical at this juncture of the American economy that we create a strategic shift away from the costly strategy of waste management toward a holistic resource management system that strives to use less materials overall, reduce toxins, recover more used materials, create new jobs, and foster economic development.

We believe that recycling is a shared responsibility which requires citizen engagement. The grants program established in your legislation will provide critical investment in infrastructure and technologies. This will help achieve the goal of a more sustainable America for our future.

The NRC Board of Directors thank you for your leadership in introducing and sponsoring the *"Zero Waste Development and Expansion Act of 2017"* and we look forward to working with you to achieve that sustainable recycling future.

Sincerely,



Bob Gedert, NRC President



202.618.2107
info@NRCrecycles.org
1220 L St NW Suite 100-155 Washington, DC 20005