

NRC Board Meeting
May 17, 2019

Policy Committee Report

This report has two items for board consideration today.

Item 1:

Support for Paper Recycling (S. 1396)

The PolCom has received a bill (S. 1396) for review and possible board support. It is related to paper and supported by the Paper Recycling Coalition, so Fran McPoland has recused herself from any discussion of the item. This type of bill, if urgent and warranted, is generally within the purview of the NRC President to send a letter of support (if warranted). This one is urgent but less so, and the PolCom is submitting to the board for a vote. As written, the proposed bill clarifies an ambiguous section of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 and removes the incentive for burning recyclable/recoverable paper with other waste.

The PolCom recommends SUPPORT.

Background and Bill language are included with this report. If passed, a letter will be prepared for the President's signature.

Item 2:

Support for Container Deposits

This item is a carryover from last month's board meeting whereby the PolCom brought forth a recommendation for NRC support of container deposits and provided a policy statement to that effect. After much discussion by the board, the item was withdrawn for return to the Container Deposit Working Group (CDWG) to address concerns brought up during discussion. The original proposed policy document is included with this report, with restructuring edits to reflect comments from the meeting. Additionally, Fran McPoland attended the ROC call to receive feedback on the statement as proposed to the board.

The key concern was that some felt the language was too strong, that "...*the preferred method* ..." as worded (see below) implied that NRC supported container deposits above all else.

"The NRC supports deposit return systems for container recovery as the preferred method of increasing the collection and reclamation of clean materials for recycling into new materials."

The PolCom reviewed this and several other concerns brought up at the meeting and discussed how to address. As noted, we restructured the policy document. The PolCom also presented to the CDWG the original policy statement, a new policy statement option, and invited them to provide other policy statement suggestions.

Option 1:

“The NRC supports deposit return systems for container recovery as the preferred method of increasing the collection and reclamation of clean materials for recycling into new materials.”

Option 2:

The NRC supports deposit return systems for container recovery as a vital strategy to increase the collection and reclamation of clean materials for recycling into new materials.

Option 3:

*The NRC supports **the potential of** deposit return systems for container recovery to increase the collection and reclamation of clean materials for recycling into new materials **when the system accounts for all recycling stakeholders and the potential impact on existing markets, infrastructure, and material streams.** (note that this suggestion came in late and did not receive any comments or votes)*

In reviewing the comments and tallying the CDWG votes, the overwhelming favorite was either option the board is willing to pass.

The PolCom recommends SUPPORT either Option 1 or Option 2

If approved, the PolCom will help to organize the Communications, Membership, and Fundraising Committees to develop a plan on creating opportunities utilizing the new policy to grow membership and revenues.