

RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE COUNTIES TO BE MORE PROACTIVE IN PLANNING FOR SOLID WASTE PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND TO ENCOURAGE THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT THE PORTION OF STATE STATUTE THAT RELATES TO COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANS

WHEREAS, county government has a responsibility to protect the public health of county citizens; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has a market based solid waste industry that has become dominated by two publicly-traded global corporations; and

WHEREAS, this has resulted in less competition, less organization and less accountability to Wisconsin citizens as to who is providing solid waste services; and

WHEREAS, many Wisconsin counties have public and/or private solid waste facilities in their county and/or provide other solid waste services (such as recycling, hazardous waste, etc.); however, the importance of planning for private and public solid waste facilities in some situations has been overlooked by both local and state government; and

WHEREAS, many county officials have stated that in recent history the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has not acknowledged section 289.10 of Wisconsin state statute that relates to county solid waste management plans; and

WHEREAS, many county officials have also stated that in certain cases the DNR has approved landfill siting plans that have conflicting land use objectives as compared to previously approved plans; and

WHEREAS, there is great value in planning for solid waste facilities, operations and education; and

WHEREAS, planning for (and acknowledging plans for) private and public landfills will bring more accountability to the solid waste industry, offer opportunities for competition, consolidation and efficiency, and will provide counties and state government the opportunity to protect public health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Environment and Land Use Steering Committee recommends that the WCA Board of Directors: 1) support efforts to encourage counties to be more proactive in planning for solid waste programs/services, and 2) support efforts to encourage the DNR to acknowledge and implement the portion (section 289.10) of the state statute that relates to county solid waste management plans.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the WCA Board of Directors adopt the steering committee recommendation and forward copies of this resolution to all Wisconsin counties, the Wisconsin State Legislature, Governor James Doyle, and Department of Natural Resources Secretary Scott Hassett.

BOARD ACTION:

04/14/05 WCA Board of Directors: