



April 17, 2019

The Honorable Travis Cummings
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
221 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chairman Bradley:

Re: In Opposition to Section 1 of House Bill 771

On behalf of the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI), **I offer the following testimony in opposition to House Bill 771**, which would fundamentally modify recycling contract requirements for Florida’s municipalities, cities, counties and towns. As drafted, the legislation may prohibit municipalities from offering glass recycling services to their residents in programs throughout the state, based on subjective metrics, as outlined in our testimony.

Background:

GPI is the North American trade association for the glass container manufacturers, glass recyclers, and suppliers of materials, equipment and transport to the industry. The US glass container manufacturing industry produces the vast majority of glass bottles and jars for food and beverages purchased in grocery stores and retail outlets. Collectively, the industry directly employs 16,000 Americans in glass container manufacturing and related recycling operations throughout the country.

Glass is a 100% and endlessly recyclable package, and **one of 8 “core” recyclables recognized by the state of Florida**, feeding an existing and established end market in-state, and throughout the southeastern US.

GPI member companies both process (clean up) and purchase recycled glass collected from municipal programs across the state of Florida. Florida is home to a glass container manufacturing plant in Jacksonville, a glass processing (aka glass recycling) facility in Sarasota, as well as a fiberglass manufacturing plant in Lakeland.

House Bill 771 Conflicts with Existing Florida Statutes

Florida Statute 403.706 - Sec. (2)(f), requires that recycling programs be designed to recover a significant portion of at least four of the following materials from the solid waste stream prior to final disposal at a solid waste disposal facility and to offer these materials for recycling. These recyclables include newspaper, aluminum cans, steel cans, glass, plastic bottles, cardboard, office paper, and yard trash. **As drafted, House Bill 771 does not assure any specific number of recyclables, listed or otherwise, would continue to be collected by recycling companies, or accepted at materials recovery facility (MRF) operations.**

Further, **Florida Statute 403.7032 - Sec. (4)** directs the Department of Environmental Protection to develop comprehensive recycling programs in coordination with state and local entities, private businesses, and the public. Under the program, recyclable materials shall include, but are not limited to, metals, paper, glass, plastic, textile, rubber materials, and mulch. **Again, House Bill 771 offers no assurances that glass, or any of the other listed recyclables, would continue to be collected for recycling, or accepted at MRF operations.**

Other Areas of Concern with Section 1 of House Bill 771:

1. The legislation requires a “contaminated recyclable material” (CRM) be defined after a review of “available composition waste studies”, “availability of end markets” and “other relevant factors”.

The above CRM factors are subjective, and wholly insufficient to address statutory changes for the 412 incorporated municipalities in Florida. For example, what waste composition studies would be reviewed, how are end markets defined, what is meant by “other relevant factors?”

These metrics, and others laid out in the bill, offer no program stability for the cities and municipalities that are expected to provide recycling services to their constituents, nor for the manufacturing companies who purchase recycled materials to produce new products. To be clear, glass, and other recyclable materials, would be subject to inclusion in a CRM definition.

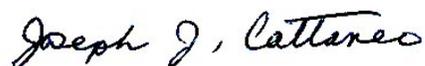
2. July 1, 2019 is the start date for which the CRM definition must be included in renewing or new recycling contracts.

This very short timeframe is insufficient to address or even comprehensively review the undefined waste composition studies and other materials. We recommend a substantial, minimum two-year phase-in period for any legislation addressing recycling contracts, so municipalities may have adequate time to discuss proposed changes with their recycling service providers and constituents.

We look forward to supporting legislation that would reduce recycling-related contamination in the state, without subjective and undefined metrics that unfairly threaten glass recycling.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony to Section 1 of House Bill.

Sincerely,



Joseph J. Cattaneo
President

Cc: Members, Florida House Committee on Appropriations