

RESOLUTION

Category: Economy, Natural Resources and Energy

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Title: Development of a Zero Waste Recycling System in Michigan

Adopted by: Leelanau County Democratic Party,

WHEREAS: The State of Michigan has had a bottle deposit recycling law with legal deposit requirements for soft drinks since 1976,

WHEREAS: This law has not been updated to include new beverage containers such as water bottles, fruit drink bottles and other individual drink containers for beverages from coffee to milk and other carbonated nonalcoholic and alcoholic beverages,

WHEREAS: Our national economy is in a deep recession and people are losing their jobs by the thousands every day,

WHEREAS: The State of Michigan leads the nation in unemployed workers,

WHEREAS: There are waste landfills and incinerator operations throughout the state on a local, county and community level,

WHEREAS: The impact of developing a *Zero Waste* recycling system in our state could immediately create new businesses and jobs while preserving existing positions at solid waste plants,

WHEREAS: A nationwide *Zero Waste* program would save energy and other resources, and materials that would normally end up in landfills would be turned into beneficial products,

WHEREAS: Job creation would be much greater with a *Zero Waste* system than in the existing waste management structure, where landfill or incineration offers five to ten times fewer jobs than a system that also sorts and processes recyclable materials,

WHEREAS: When actual remanufacturing of paper and plastics is added, the job creation figure jumps to sixty times,

WHEREAS: Building "re-use" into the job creation equation, new re-use industries would sustain more jobs in contrast to disposal operations (e.g., pallet repair operations sustaining 14 times more jobs, textiles 37 times more, multi-material facilities 38 times more, electronics re-use 68 times more jobs),

WHEREAS: Re-use operations tend to be locally-owned and will therefore generate more tax revenues for a community,

WHEREAS: Recycling jobs pay more than the average wage in most industries other than the declining auto industry,

WHEREAS: Other states like Massachusetts and California have set deadlines for establishing *Zero Waste*,

WHEREAS: The U.S. Congress is in the midst of passing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan that includes funding for infrastructure and economic development,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Leelanau County and Michigan Democratic Party endorse the establishment of a task force by the State of Michigan to establish a *Zero Waste* project and timetable for implementation,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the State of Michigan's governor request that the U.S. President and Congress develop a *Zero Waste* timetable as part of Vice President Joe Biden's Middle Class Task Force focus on Green Jobs during the February 27, 2009 meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT this resolution be forwarded to the State Democratic Party with a recommendation for its acceptance and placement in the appropriate document or with the appropriate committee for action

SIGNATURE OF CHAIRPERSON: _____ DATE _____