

Rep. David Law offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 132.

A resolution to urge the Governor to implement a statewide recycling initiative.

Whereas, Michigan is defined by its abundant natural resources, which have a major impact on our quality of life, economy, recreational traditions, and tourism. Over 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, fertile soils for farming, and many lakes, streams, forests, dunes, and wetlands identify the pleasing qualities that Michigan offers to residents and visitors; and

Whereas, Michigan residents generated over 14.8 million tons of municipal solid waste that were disposed of in this state's landfills in 2006. Landfilling is the least desirable way to manage our solid waste. Landfills take up precious land resources and are constructed to hold solid waste for hundreds of years after it has been disposed. Recycling and reuse of solid waste are wiser management options. Recycling conserves natural resources, reduces our dependence on landfills and incinerators, and makes economic and environmental sense; and

Whereas, The Michigan Recycling Coalition estimates that Michigan's recycling rate is below 20 percent, the lowest recycling rate for any state in the Great Lakes region. Michigan's recycling rate is also below the United States Environmental Protection Agency's estimated national recycling rate of 28 percent. According to the Michigan Recycling Coalition, many Michigan residents do not have access to either curbside or drop-off recycling programs; and

Whereas, A few communities in Michigan offer wide-ranging recycling collection programs to their residents. However, the state as a whole is lacking a comprehensive, statewide recycling initiative. Until recycling is promoted and encouraged on a statewide basis, we will be unable to properly protect the natural resources and quality of life that make Michigan a great state; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the Governor to implement a statewide recycling initiative; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the office of the Governor and the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality.