SALEM COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

Resolution 2013- 15

Resolution in Opposition to Senate Bill 2528/Assembly Bill 3879 and Proposed Exemption From Source Separation Requirements

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2528/Assembly Bill 3879 would provide exemption from source separation requirements for commercial and institutional solid waste generators; and

WHEREAS, approximately 60% of recycling tons reported to New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for Year 2010 was from commercial and institutional generators, and these exemptions would divert recyclable materials away from established recycling facilities that have already invested millions of private sector dollars in equipment and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, source separation is the cornerstone of New Jersey’s recycling program, and past experience with exemptions has shown that material recovery facilities (MRF) do not recover as much recyclable materials as a source separation system; and

WHEREAS, allowing academic institutions, including public and private schools and colleges, to mix garbage and recyclables is a reversal of commonly taught conservation practices, and detrimental to educational efforts for developing environmental preservation goals among Salem County students; and

WHEREAS, exemptions that would divert recyclable materials away from recycling facilities would hamper New Jersey from reaching its 50% recycling goal and may impact the jobs of almost 27,000 people in New Jersey that are employed in recycling and reuse establishments; and

WHEREAS, there is a reduction in the quality of recyclable material from MRF processing due to mixing garbage with recyclables and then extracting those recyclables from the waste; and

WHEREAS, the necessary certification process, monitoring and enforcement of MRFs would strain NJDEP, which is already understaffed, and exemptions could play havoc on counties with and without Solid Waste Flow Control; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Salem County Improvement Authority opposes Senate Bill 2528/Assembly Bill 3879; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to all Mayors of Salem County Municipalities, Members of the Salem County Solid Waste Advisory Council, Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Senator Stephen Sweeney, Assemblywoman Celeste Riley, Assemblyman John Burzichelli, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, Environmental Specialist 3, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the Salem County Division of Planning.

ATTEST:

Peter Voros, Secretary

John Oberg, Chairman

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Salem County Improvement Authority at a regular meeting held June 24, 2013.

DATE: 6/24/13

Peter Voros, Secretary