

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM #11: LITTER CONTROL AND RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD AND LITTER CONTROL AND RECYCLING FUND

SUBJECT:

Governor McDonnell's Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring proposes eliminating the Litter Control and Recycling Advisory Board. The Governor's Budget proposes cuts in litter control and recycling dollars going to Virginia localities in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

BACKGROUND:

The Litter Control and Recycling Fund (Fund) is supported by the Litter tax, Soft Drink tax and Beer tax. The Fund is used for litter prevention and recycling grants to localities under a non-competitive grant program. The Fund's annual budget is less than \$2 million, and for the past three years, the General Assembly has taken \$255,000 from the Fund each year. The current Governor's Budget proposes to continue cutting from the Fund by taking \$255,000 this fiscal year (Caboose Bill, Miscellaneous Transfers); and \$191,250 in FY 2013 and \$127,500 in FY 2014 (2012-2014 Biennial Budget, Miscellaneous Transfers).

The less than \$2 million distributed across the state annually multiplies into a value of more than \$18 million worth of value through matching local funds, volunteer hours and in-kind goods and services. The clean community and recycling segment of the Commonwealth are able to transform the modest grants received from the Fund into transformational projects that improve citizens' quality of life. The annual taking would have delivered an additional benefit to the communities throughout the Commonwealth at a return rate of \$8.40 for every \$1.00 of tax revenue received.

The Litter Control and Recycling Fund Board (Board) is a volunteer board. Its members do not receive compensation for their time or travel expenses. The Board is comprised of a representative from industries that pay the associated taxes, a local litter or recycling coordinator representative, and a representative from the general public. The Board ensures that applicants comply with the terms of the grants and that the taxes from industries that create litter and recyclables are appropriately distributed to local organizations and programs that accomplish the goals of reducing litter and increasing recycling.

Working with the local representatives on HR CLEAN, the HRPDC staff has prepared the attached letter to the Hampton Roads General Assembly Delegation urging them to oppose elimination of the Litter Control and Recycling Fund Board and to support continued funding for the Litter Control and Recycling Fund.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends the Commission authorize the Chairman to send the attached letter to the Hampton Roads Members of the General Assembly.

Attachment

DRAFT LETTER

MEMBER
JURISDICTIONS

January 19, 2012

CHESAPEAKE

FRANKLIN

RE: Litter Control Funding

GLOUCESTER

Dear Hampton Roads General Assembly Delegation:

HAMPTON

At its January 19, 2012 Quarterly Commission Meeting, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) acted to urge that you oppose the elimination of the Virginia Litter Control and Recycling Fund Advisory Board as proposed by Governor McDonnell's Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring, and that you oppose the taking of any funds from the Litter Control and Recycling Fund.

ISLE OF WIGHT

JAMES CITY

NEWPORT NEWS

The Litter Control and Recycling Fund (Fund) is supported by the Litter tax, Soft Drink tax and Beer tax. The Fund is used for litter prevention and recycling grants to localities under a non-competitive grant program (VA Code Section 10.1-1422.01). The Litter Control and Recycling Fund Board (Board) is a volunteer board that does not receive compensation for their time or travel expenses (VA Code Section 10.1-1422.02).

NORFOLK

POQUOSON

PORTSMOUTH

The Board is comprised of a representative from industries that pay the associated taxes, a local litter or recycling coordinator representative, and a representative from the general public. It is an exemplary display of taxpayers having direct involvement in and oversight of programs that utilize tax revenues. The Board ensures that applicants comply with the terms of the grants and that the taxes from industries that create litter and recyclables are appropriately distributed to local organizations and programs that accomplish the goals of reducing litter and increasing recycling.

SOUTHAMPTON

SUFFOLK

SURRY

VIRGINIA BEACH

The effect of the Fund is the gold standard for budget efficiency. The less than \$2 million distributed across the state annually multiplies into a value of more than \$18 million through matching local funds, volunteer hours and in-kind goods and services. The clean community and recycling segment of the Commonwealth are active and caring citizens, working hard to keep Virginia clean and beautiful. They are able to transform the modest grants received from this Fund into transformational projects that improve citizens' quality of life.

WILLIAMSBURG

YORK

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January 19, 2012
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For the past three years, the General Assembly has taken \$255,000 each year from the Fund. The \$765,000 cut has hit localities across the Commonwealth hard, and Hampton Roads has been no exception. As localities struggle to do more with less, litter prevention education and awareness programs struggle to continue bringing programs into schools and the community. Volunteer cleanup programs such as Adopt-A-Spot and Clean the Bay Day programs also feel the pressure. That annual \$255,000 would have delivered an additional benefit to the communities throughout the Commonwealth at a return rate of \$8.40 for every \$1.00 of tax revenue received.

The Litter Control and Recycling Fund Advisory Board provides a level of transparency for the industries whose taxes makeup the Fund. During these austere budget times, the efficient use of funds is paramount, and the litter and recycling coordinators across the Commonwealth multiply the value of the Fund in unprecedented ways.

We ask that you strongly oppose the Governor's recommendation to eliminate the Litter Control and Recycling Fund Advisory Board. We further request that you support amendment to the Governor's proposed budget FY 2012 Caboose Bill and FY 2012-2014 Biennial Budget that would restore full funding to the Litter Control and Recycling Fund. and that you oppose the further taking of funds from the Litter Control and Recycling Fund. Please help us to keep Hampton Roads Beautiful.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Shepperd
Chairman

LH/fh