

Chairperson Huebert and Committee Members,

Please accept this as my written testimony in support of HB 2074.

If landfills and energy were free we would not be having this debate. Even in this "Go Green" world recycling is not cost effective. The time and energy expended to collect, sort and transport "recyclables" cost more than the use of virgin materials delivered to the same end user. The most glaring example is glass. From an energy stand point, one ton of recycled glass (cullet) only requires 10% of the energy consumed to produce the same molten material using a sand based mixture. Also worth noting is that glass is glass with no or minimal loss of quality via reuse literally thousands of times. It is the perfect recyclable. However the nearest end users are located in St. Louis and Denver. Transporting to either of these facilities is not cost effective.

With or without HB 2074 glass containers remain in the trash stream. Experts calculate the volume based on weight. However in the landfill it should be calculated on displacement. It's full of air, which in most landfills accelerates methane production. Which brings us to interesting facts about tires and why they have special regulations. A roadside discarded tire collects rainwater and becomes a sheltered breeding habitat for mosquitos. A landfilled tire collects methane and rises upward through the landfill leaving a channel behind allowing rainwater to enter. During the 1970s it was common to see the tread surfaces of tires atop every landfill.

Enough history and back to HB 2074. I live in unincorporated area of Johnson County. Trash services are provided by Deffenbaugh Industries. Following a significant increase in my billing for services, I was provided with two large containers. The black lid container is for "trash" that must be bagged. The yellow lid container is for "recyclables" (excluding glass) and must not be bagged. This identifies the first major problem: My observations show that most households place all their refuse in a bag, place the bag into the black lid container and it goes to the landfill. There is no enforcement (nor should there be) to this voluntary program yet the experts make their calculations on 100% participation.

Deffenbaugh takes the "recyclables" to a very labor intensive sorting facility. <http://deffenbaughinc.com/green/green-communities/recycling-center> Which states "In turn, our customers see **reductions in their overall disposal costs** and are able to **divert significant tons of material from area landfills.**"

Mid America Regional Council (**MARC**) is a body of area elected and appointed individuals that serve to source and secure State and Federal grants. Analysis of MARC activities and goals is very much United Nations Agenda 21 related. MARC acts with the authority of a regional government albeit unelected. MARC information on this subject is abundant <http://www.marc.org/Environment/SolidWaste/index.htm> yet they really do not address "recycling" outside of "diversion" from landfills.

Extending landfill useful life cycles is a notable goal but current policy is nothing more than a "feel good" attempt to control more of our behavior. Deffenbaugh, Waste Management and others make good money operating landfills. When government tries to solve what they perceive to be an environmental problem, some how we end up with a bigger problem



Maybe you should worry about how much mercury is going in to our landfills and the exposures when the trash trucks compact and break these in a neighborhood near you.

I support the retroactive implementation of HR 2074.

"Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Anyone Who Threatens It"

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View Sarah's Story <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUWuUvOZ7RY> <http://vimeo.com/23038312>

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