

TRASH TAX ON MICHIGAN RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES
Increasing family and business costs while hurting essential services

Imposing a \$5 trash tax on each ton of solid waste will simply increase the cost of living and doing business in Michigan. At a time when we are looking for ways to improve Michigan’s attractiveness, increasing the trash tax will add cost to every household and business in the state as well as local governments, hospitals, public safety organizations, and school districts, to name a few.

This proposed increase in the state Tipping Fee will raise the cost of essential services provided to Michigan citizens and businesses. The safe, efficient, and affordable collection and management of waste materials is essential to public health and safety, protection of our environment, and ensuring the infrastructure that enables business and economic growth. This increased tax is appropriately a pass-through fee, such that the additional expenses (direct and indirect from the fee increase) will ultimately be borne by the users of Michigan disposal facilities – i.e., **Michigan citizens and businesses will be covering more than 75% of the \$80 million budget proposal.**

For example...	Who has an annual tonnage of...	Has an increased annual cost of...
Michigan Households	4,000,000	\$18,560,000
Large Hospital	1,296	\$6,013
Large University	12,000	\$55,680
Remediated Soil Projects	3,620,000	\$16,796,800
Industrial Business	98,000	\$454,720
Retail Store	2,846	\$13,203

Additionally, counties such as...	Who have an annual tonnage* of...	Has an increased annual cost of...
Wayne	1,481,079	\$6,872,207
Oakland	1,062,070	\$4,928,005
Macomb	737,421	\$3,421,633
Kent	551,761	\$2,560,171
Marquette	56,138	\$260,480

**Tonnage reported from EGLE’s Mega Data Collection Project on www.Michigan.gov*

Raising the State Tipping Fee by 1,289%, means residents and businesses will be subject to pay for this increased tax directly as well as indirectly, by adding to current inflationary price pressures.

The extra burden of an 1,289% increase on Michigan’s trash tax may force local governments, hospitals, and schools to consider other budget cuts, jeopardizing the jobs of essential workers like police officers, firefighters, nurses, and teachers.

This increased Tipping Fee also has the effect of increasing potential “illegal dumping” by making trash collection even more expensive for residents.

Finally, Governor Whitmer’s proposed tipping fee increase:

- **Puts 75% of the funds dedicated to spending unrelated to the landfill industry.**
 - This highly regulated industry already has requirements in closure and post-closure financial assurance. A practice the waste industry has continually implemented to ensure sites are properly managed for the future and has recently increased due to Part 115 amendments.

- Additionally, Michigan’s landfills are providing disposal for environmental protection and development projects. According to EGLE’s Report of Solid Waste Landfilled in Michigan, **Michigan landfills safely accepted and managed an estimated 4 million tons of Contaminated Soils from these same environmental projects** (from October 2021 – September 2022).
- Considering the other materials associated with environmental remediation and brownfield redevelopment (impacted river sediment dredging, urban renewal blight, tire pile cleanups), **MWRA estimates the proposed fee would create \$25M per year of added cost to the same projects the State’s budget recommendation proposes to support.**
- **Claims this tax will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills.**
 - Landfill gas collection has been modernized and has transformed the industry, as methane gas is now able to be harnessed for conversion to renewable energy. This renewable resource (as defined in PA 235 of 2023) is collected and then used to power homes and vehicles while reducing the emissions produced from other non-renewable resources of energy generation.
- **Is concerned over landfill lifespans.**
 - This legislation will have little impact on the lifespan of landfills since over 75% of waste deposited in Michigan comes from Michigan. Meaning, once again, Michigan residents and businesses will be covering most of this \$80 million proposal.

Michiganders have been feeling the effects of inflation since the COVID-19 pandemic and are currently waiting to understand the financial impacts of an uncertain global economic future.

Now is NOT the time to increase taxes on Michigan residents and businesses on an essential, critical piece of infrastructure. We urge you to consider the harmful impacts of an increased Trash Tax on Michigan families and businesses and OPPOSE this proposal.

Sincerely the below signed organizations,

