



Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Senator Mary Jo White
Chairman

Patrick Henderson, Executive Director

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October 18, 2006

The Honorable Kathleen A. McGinty
Secretary of Environmental Protection
16th Floor Rachel Carson Building
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Secretary McGinty:

Thank you very much for testifying at the committee's recent hearing regarding funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act Fund. I am writing to clarify two items we discussed at the hearing: use of the recycling fund, and allocation of the \$625 million voter-approved bond initiative.

Your testimony stated that last year, the legislature proposed using the \$2/ton recycling fee to finance the HSCA Fund and Growing Greener. However, to my knowledge neither the Senate nor the House made any such proposal. The Senate passed SB 149, which would use General Fund revenue. The House proposed a Green PA plan, which upon my review did not propose any redirection of the recycling fee to any other program. However, as I stated at the hearing Governor Rendell did make a proposal that would have redirected the recycling fee to pay for debt service. This proposal was shared with my office last June by Secretary Steve Crawford, but was ultimately rejected by the General Assembly. A copy is enclosed.

Your testimony also states: "*the legislature passed and the Governor enacted a \$625 million voter-approved bond initiative that, among other things, included at least \$50 million for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund over two years*". This leaves the impression that \$50 million of the bond proceeds went to HSCA. It is my understanding that the \$50 million over two years for HSCA came from revenue generated by the existing \$4.25/ton tipping fee, not bond proceeds. Is this accurate?

Again, thank you for your participation. Please be assured that your testimony will be distributed to all committee members so that they have the benefit of your views. Additionally, video of the hearing is posted online at www.senatormjwhite.com/environmental.html.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jo White".

Mary Jo White, Chairman
Senate Environmental Resources
& Energy Committee

Enclosure