

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

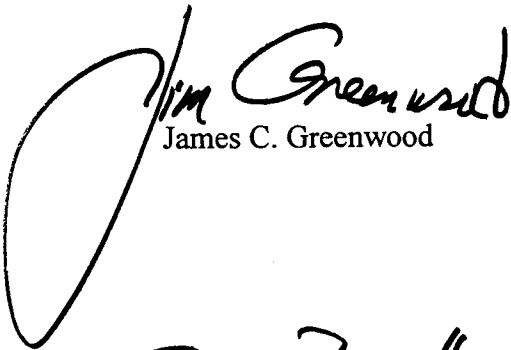
Recently we introduced the "*Solid Waste Interstate Transportation Act of 2001*" and would like to invite you to lend your support to this important legislation.

Interstate waste shipments continue to soar. In the five-year period between 1993 and 1998, reported imports nearly doubled from 14.5 million tons to 28.4 million tons. If you are not aware of the tonnage of municipal solid waste that is imported into your state, we encourage you to review CRS Report RL 30409. If you are shocked by the amount of waste being dumped in your state by other states, you should be aware that this problem is not going away, but is getting worse.

Only through an act of Congress can states and localities gain the authority to control interstate waste shipments. The Solid Waste Interstate Transportation Act, H.R. 1213, has been crafted in consultation with governors, local governments, and citizen organizations. The bill provides reasonable tools that will enable state and local governments to responsibly maintain disposal capacity for their own waste. The bill does not give states the outright authority to prohibit all out-of-state trash. For a brief description of the bill see the reverse side of this dear colleague.

To become a cosponsor of H.R. 1213 please contact Judy Borger (Rep. Greenwood's office) at 5-4276, or Sharon Grant (Rep. Doyle's office) at 5-2135.

Sincerely,



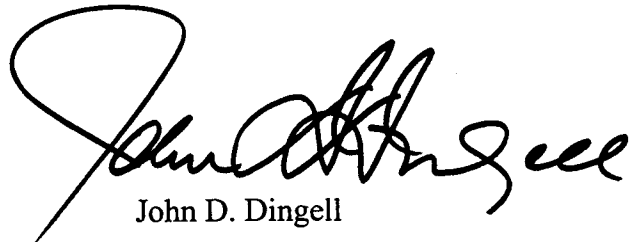
James C. Greenwood



Mike Doyle



Thomas M. Barrett



John D. Dingell

Solid Waste Interstate Transportation Act of 2001

Local Governments will be authorized to apply a presumptive ban on out-of-state municipal solid waste unless the landfill or incinerator obtains the agreement of the affected government. An exemption to the ban will exist 1) if the facility already has a host community agreement; 2) if a facility enters a new host agreement after enactment and provides information about the waste capacity of the site, the anticipated quantities of waste to be handled at the site, and environmental controls and compliance; 3) if a pre-existing state permit specifically authorizes out-of-state waste; or 4) for the amount of out-of state waste specified in standing contracts, for the life of the contract or the period ending three years after the date of enactment, whichever is longer.

State Governments will have the authority to place a cap on out-of-state waste received annually, not less than 20% in permits for waste facilities; deny permits for landfills or incinerators if municipal solid waste management plans exist, and if there is no local or regional need; and adopt a law to impose and collect a compensatory \$2.00 per ton cost recovery surcharge to cover the costs of processing and disposing of out-of-state waste.

Freeze Authority States and local affected governments may limit the amount of out-of-state waste received at each landfill or incinerator at levels not to exceed calendar year 1993. The freeze will not supersede an established host community agreement or state permit. **Recycling** A state that has enacted a comprehensive statewide recycling program may limit the amount of out-of-state waste at each landfill or incinerator in the state to the amounts received in 1995. The limit cannot conflict with a higher amount established by a host community agreement or state permit.

Public Health and Safety The General Accounting Office will report to Congress each year. For 3 years after enactment, the incidents of unauthorized waste such as medical, hazardous or radioactive found by inspectors or disposal facility operators.