

2017 Policies

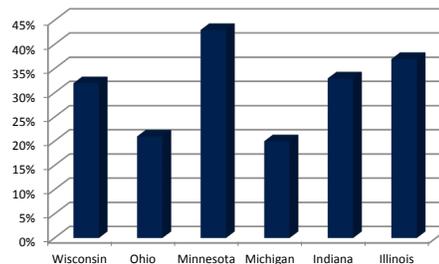
PRODUCT MANAGEMENT AND REGULATION

Regulating various substances and materials should always be based on scientific, peer-reviewed data. Risk and exposure to the products proposed to be regulated must be considered. State regulations should be consistent with other state and federal regulations. Federal agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Food and Drug Administration already have the authority and are engaged in the review and regulation of chemicals in manufacturing and products.

Minnesota has proudly led the nation in recycling rates and has invested millions of dollars in waste recycling programs and infrastructure. Any new state government regulations should allow Minnesota businesses to remain competitive in the global market and not undermine current recycling infrastructure. Private-sector competition will provide the most cost-effective opportunity for businesses and consumers to maximize resource conservation.

Recycling RATES

Source: Biocycle Magazine, December 2008; Public Sector Consultants, INC. April 23, 2009 report.



OUR GOALS

Legislative chemical and product management proposals have been overly broad and have been inconsistent with other state and federal standards. Prescriptive regulatory options such as state-mandated advanced disposal fees, container deposit, product take-backs and bans will increase costs for Minnesota manufacturers and retailers; and ultimately consumers. Minnesota Waste Wise is an example of a voluntary approach to waste reduction that saves Minnesota businesses financially and diverts waste from landfills, while also providing an excellent opportunity to educate businesses on stewardship practices. Product reporting and registration is already undertaken by numerous federal agencies and other states. Minnesota's programs should not be duplicative, increase costs, or lead to confusion among retailers and manufacturers.

OUR KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE 2017 SESSION INCLUDE:

- Support nonregulatory approaches to waste management and product stewardship.
- Promote and educate the public on the 3 Rs-Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
- Oppose chemical bans and regulatory approaches that are duplicative of federal rules and other state programs.

ENSURE CONSISTENT CHEMICAL REGULATION

We support a full review, update and implementation of the federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) so chemicals and products are regulated on the federal level and not through individual state legislation that creates uncertainty in the chain of commerce.

IMPROVE WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The 3 Rs—Reduce, Reuse and Recycle—should be recognized and encouraged. Education, voluntary action and competitive markets are the keys to maximizing the 3 Rs.

EDUCATE ABOUT PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

We support efforts to educate manufacturers, sellers and users of products on environmental responsibilities at various stages of the product lifecycle.