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MILELE A. COGGS

6th District Alderwoman

Common Council Votes to Oppose State Recycling Grant Cut

Statement of Alderwoman Milele A. Cogg April 12, 2011

I want to thank co-sponsors Alderman Michael J. Murphy, Alderman Nik Kovac, Alderman Robert J. Bauman and my Common Council colleagues for their support today of File #101566 (**attached**), legislation that puts the Council on record in opposition to the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) plan to slash 2011 recycling grant funding to local communities by 40%.

By approving the legislation today, the Council authorized city representatives to begin lobbying the DNR and the state Department of Administration to fully fund the 2011 recycling grant program.

If the cut goes into effect, it would mean an immediate loss to the City of Milwaukee of \$1.3 million, and will force the city to look at ways of funding recycling collection that were not planned or budgeted for. In fact, it could very well mean that crews will collect recyclables less frequently than they do now, which is a direct reduction in service for city residents.

But the negative consequences do not end there.

If crews collect less frequently, residents will likely start mixing recyclables in with their garbage. That, according to city budget officials, will likely translate into an additional \$750,000 in tipping fees that the city will be paying to the state. Also, it will mean a loss of revenue the city normally receives from its recycling contracts for the materials (glass, metal/aluminum, plastics, etc.) it collects.

And, it is possible the state will completely de-fund the recycling grant program in 2012. We simply cannot sit idle and not communicate our city's strong opposition to these moves, and that is why I am glad the Council voted the way it did today.

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