



Envirc  
222 Laporte  
PO Box 580  
Fort Collins, CO 80522  
970.221-6600  
970.224-6177 - fax  
fcgov.com

March 20, 2019

To the Legislative Body:

RE: SB 19-192, Creating a New Enterprise to Administer a Fee-Based Waste Diversion Program

The City of Fort Collins supports SB19-192, calling for a new grant-funded program that will increase efforts taken along the Front Range for diverting materials from landfill disposal.

Fort Collins' Legislative Policy Agenda provides clear guidance for supporting SB19-192, along with our adopted Zero Waste goals. We are proud to collaborate with Fort Collins' regional counterparts in a "Wasteshed" Master Plan that sets a course of action for 40% landfill diversion throughout the Larimer County/Northern Front Range area and this bill will help meet those goals.

Creating an Enterprise that administers grants to Front Range waste diversion projects will inspire entrepreneurs, academic institutions, and government agencies to take actions and invest in recycling infrastructure that may otherwise be difficult to monetize. The US waste/recycling industry is at crossroads due to international market pressures and now is the time to put American ingenuity and determination to work to resolve shortfalls in our domestic recycling system.

Setting a small surcharge on trash to fund the Enterprise seems reasonable. Colorado's landfill tipping fees are among the lowest in the country – low costs certainly contribute to a "throw it away" mentality - and the proposed fee of 60-cents/cubic yard (by 2022) would represent a modest 3% increase for most users along the Northern Front Range.

SB19-192 allows Colorado to rise above its mediocre level of waste diversion and act on residents' strong feelings of stewardship for our beautiful state. We know Fort Collins is not alone in its commitment to reducing waste that gets sent to landfills, and to conserving valuable resources. Colorado needs to be intentional about protecting the natural environment and reducing sources of greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change, including the methane gas that escapes from landfills. By adopting SB19-192, we will not fail them.

If we can provide further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susie Gordon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susie Gordon, Environmental Program Manager  
City of Fort Collins