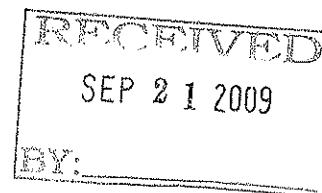


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JOHN H. ASHLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



To: Members of the Wisconsin Assembly  
From: Sheri Krause, Government Relations Specialist  
Date: September 18, 2009  
Re: Senate Bill 107: E-Waste  
Support Amendment to Assist K-12 Schools

The Wisconsin School Boards Association (WASB) is urging all members of the Wisconsin Assembly to support an amendment to SB 107 from Rep. John Steinbrink that will benefit your local schools and taxpayers with disposing of electronic waste cheaply, effectively and ethically.

The goal of this amendment is to create a market for electronic waste generated by Wisconsin schools, which will essentially reduce or eliminate a school's cost of recycling electronic waste.

As Wisconsin's educational system strives to be more efficient and implement new cost savings measures in the face of an uncertain economy – this simple amendment should allow Wisconsin schools to see an immediate savings on electronic waste recycling efforts.

Wisconsin schools purchase televisions, computers and other electronic equipment to assist in our mission to educate students. The average lifespan of a new computer in a school is approximately five years. However, schools are often the beneficiaries of donated electronic equipment from businesses that are upgrading or replacing their own electronic systems.

Donated electronic equipment is greatly appreciated and directly benefits the students, the school and the taxpayers. However, in many situations donated equipment has a shorter life span and quickly becomes electronic waste. The equipment that was once a benefit is now a cost liability for the school and taxpayers.

Many schools dispose of the electronic waste properly, which does have a cost especially for those schools in rural areas of the state. Many schools have obsolete and useless electronic devices (waste) piling up in classrooms or in storage. Based on a similar program in Washington State, Wisconsin could recycle as much as 100,000 lbs. of electronic waste from K-12 schools each month.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and please support the amendment to reduce or eliminate the cost of electronic waste recycling for Wisconsin schools.