Public Law 101-16
101st Congress

Joint Resolution

To designate April 1989 as "National Recycling Month".

Apr. 19, 1989
[H.J. Res. 102]

Whereas a solid waste disposal crisis exists in the United States;
Whereas half of the major cities in the United States will have no space available for disposal of garbage within 4 years;
Whereas trash incineration and non-incineration industries should adopt recycling methods;
Whereas source separation, mechanical separation, and community-based recycling programs divert a significant portion of waste from landfills;
Whereas recycling preserves limited landfill capacity for disposal of nontoxic waste;
Whereas recycling saves energy and avoids the pollution created in extracting resources from their natural environment;
Whereas the revenues from goods recovered by public sector recycling programs help to offset the costs of the programs;
Whereas shared savings, which accrue by avoiding the higher cost of landfills or incineration, make recycling an economically efficient disposal policy even where markets for recycled materials are weak or undeveloped;
Whereas a well-developed system of recycling scrap metals, paper, and glass already exists and significantly reduces the quantity of solid waste composed of metal, paper, and glass;
Whereas substantial increases in the amount of materials recycled will require development of markets that absorb the increase in the amount of materials recycled, known as incremental markets;
Whereas many consumer products are designed without sufficient regard for safe and efficient recycling after disposal;
Whereas the Federal Government and State and local governments should enact legislative measures that will increase the amount of solid waste that is recycled;
Whereas the Federal Government and State and local governments should encourage the growth of incremental markets for materials recovered from recyclable goods;
Whereas the Federal Government and State and local governments should promote the design of products that can be recycled safely and efficiently after use;
Whereas the Federal Government and State and local governments should establish requirements for in-home separation of waste to enable efficient recycling; and
Whereas the people of the United States should be encouraged to participate in educational and legislative endeavors that promote waste separation methods, community-based recycling programs, and expanded utilization of recovered materials: Now, therefore, be it

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Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That April 1989 is designated as "National Recycling Month", and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Approved April 19, 1989.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 102 (S.J. Res. 61):

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 135 (1989):
Mar. 23, considered and passed House.
Apr. 5, S.J. Res. 61 considered and passed Senate.
Apr. 6, H.J. Res. 102 considered and passed Senate.