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CITY OF TROY
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

November 28, 2008

Michelle Musial
1717 Beech Lane
Troy, MI 48083

Troy City Hall
ATTN: Louise Schilling
500 W. Big Beaver
Troy, MI 48084

Dear Mayor Louise Schilling,

I am writing to you today to applaud your and the state's efforts regarding the recycling program in the state of Michigan. The standard recycling processes including paper and plastic, along with the implementation of SOCCRA, have contributed to what I believe to be one of the most beneficial, easy, and effective program in the entire country. SOCCRA's new curbside recycling guidelines, which went into effect in July of this year, have already shown impact throughout participating communities.

As I had mentioned, the ease and practicality of the program makes it so simple to participate. No longer can residents complain that recycling takes too much effort and doesn't make a difference. All it takes is a recycling bin, a quick glance at the guidelines, and taking out the bin right along with your trash. Along with that, no longer are the paper products so regulated to the point where it takes more time figuring out what is recyclable and what isn't. Under SOCCRA's new program, almost all paper materials, from phone books to newspapers to paper cups and paperboard are acceptable. To go with this improvement, what I believe to be the most beneficial aspects of your recycling program are the financial and nature-saving aspects. As for monetary compensation, according to SOCCRA's website, SOCCRA communities are each rebated $860,000 per year. In fact, it is stated that SOCCRA saved enough energy to power all of the homes in Beverly Hills for the entire year. Also, not to be ignored, 221,000 trees were saved, and the carbon dioxide emissions not released were equivalent to taking 8,300 cars off the road. These benefits, along with the convenient drop off centers locally, provide for an enthused and proud college student in a participating SOCCRA community.

In conclusion, each of the communities that participate in the SOCCRA recycling program have seen numerous benefits within their communities. The expansion of numerous materials including papers, plastics, and electronic equipment, as well as the ease of placing these products either on your curbside with your trash or to your local drop off center, has made it convenient to contribute to this ultra-beneficial initiative. The results of this have been both positive for the environment as well as the economy. Trees are being saved, and wallets are getting fatter. What else could you possibly ask for from a program that deals with trash? But with the help from organizations and public officials like you, we see the truth in the time-old saying "one man's trash is another man's treasure." Again, we applaud you.

Sincerely,

Michelle Musial

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