

April 2, 2020

Via email to: [Christian.mitchell@illinois.gov](mailto:Christian.mitchell@illinois.gov) &

Via USPS

Hon JB Pritzker  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield IL 62706



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USEPA Region 5

Re: COVID-19 Impact on Recycling and Composting Service in Illinois

Dear Governor Pritzker:

Thank you for all you are doing to protect the health and welfare of residents throughout Illinois. The Illinois Recycling Association deeply appreciates your support of recycling and composting prior to this health crisis and now, in the midst of it. As a 40-year advocate for the recycling industry, the Association understands the environmental and economic impact of the waste reduction, reuse, and recycling activities throughout the State of Illinois. We are pleased, and many members relieved, that you designated waste collection and recycling as an essential service in your recent Executive Order. We ask that you also include yardwaste composting in the list of Essential Businesses and Operations.

Today, we are writing to express concern for the continued health of recycling and composting operations in the State that are threatened during the COVID-19 crisis. The Association has learned that a trade association for the waste collection industry has requested suspension of the prohibition on disposal of landscape waste in landfills. Our Association fears that if the State of Illinois were to allow this suspension, compost sites will permanently close and recycling facilities will suffer. The Illinois Recycling Association sees this as a very real threat to recycling infrastructure that could set back the State of Illinois for decades when we finally overcome this virus.

Government has already assisted the waste collection industry: the federal government has permitted waivers of the Hours of Service requirements; and IDOT has issued a temporary waiver of weight limits on roadways. Further government assistance is needed for the recycling and compost industry. The Illinois Recycling Association is asking for your continued support of our industry. Please specifically recognize the importance of landscape waste collection and composting as part of the essential activity of waste collection. Further, when putting together the next state stimulus package, please consider using the Solid Waste Fund or other resources to provide grants to these businesses. Please do all in your power to prevent a disruption in service to our residents.

Sincerely,

THE ILLINOIS RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

  
Ronald J. Tazelaar

President

[info@illinoisrecycles.org](mailto:info@illinoisrecycles.org)

cc: James Jennings, ILEPA, via email to [james.m.jennings@illinois.gov](mailto:james.m.jennings@illinois.gov)