

Rendell's Trash Tax Hike Would Take \$41 Million Out of the Pockets of Pennsylvanians.

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HARRISBURG, Pa., Feb. 8 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ – The Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association (PWIA) today said Governor Rendell's proposed \$2.75 per ton increase in Pennsylvania trash taxes would cost Pennsylvania municipalities, businesses, and consumers nearly \$41 million a year in higher costs for collection and disposal of trash.

"We are surprised and disappointed that the Rendell administration has proposed an increase in trash taxes amounting to \$2.75 per ton as part of its 2007-08 budget," PWIA President Tim O'Donnell said.

The Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association represents private-sector waste haulers, recyclers, and landfill operators in Pennsylvania and is affiliated with the National Solid Wastes Management Association.

"If this increase is allowed to go through, it would push the state's trash taxes to \$9 per ton," O'Donnell said. "Keep in mind that just five years ago state taxes on trash totaled \$2.25 per ton. We don't think it's fair to ask Pennsylvanians to bear what would amount to a 400 percent increase in trash taxes over a five-year period."

Pennsylvanians disposed of 14.9 million tons of trash in 2005, the most recent year for which statistics are available. At that volume, an additional trash tax of \$2.75 per ton would cost Pennsylvania consumers, businesses, and municipalities an extra \$40,975,000 on top of what they're paying already for collection and disposal.

O'Donnell said an increase of that magnitude would "severely ratchet up the cost pressures that Pennsylvania's municipal governments, businesses, and consumers are struggling under. The increases we've already had are more than enough. Another \$41 million would be onerous and burdensome."

He noted that as trash disposal becomes more expensive, illegal dumping tends to increase, only adding further to environmental problems and clean-up costs.

"We hope the legislature will recognize that this is the wrong way to go and will reject the administration's proposal," O'Donnell said.

Please visit the PWIA Web site at <http://www.pawasteindustries.org/> for more information.

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Web site: <http://www.pawasteindustries.org/>

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