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23 April 2004

Clerk to Bills Committee on Waste Disposal
(Amendment) (No.2) Bill 2003
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Central

(Attn: Mrs Mary Tang)

By Fax : 2869 6794

Dear Mrs Tang,

**Bills Committee on
Waste Disposal (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 2003**

Thank you for your letter of 15 April 2004 inviting our comments on the Waste Disposal (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 2003.

The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau arranged a briefing for the Provisional Construction Industry Co-ordination Board (PCICB) in May last year, during which Members expressed their support for the waste disposal charging scheme as a pragmatic way forward since the capacity of existing landfills was depleting rapidly and given the need to provide incentives for waste reduction and recycling.

Apart from issues of principle, the main thrust of discussions was focused upon practical aspects of implementation such as underlying factors in determining the proposed level of charges and enforcement difficulties arising from visual inspection by staff at landfills. The general view was that instead of relying solely on charging mechanisms, the industry should forge a close partnership with the Government to promote adoption of good practices and innovative construction techniques so as to achieve holistic management of

construction waste. A new working group will be formed to take the lead on this important subject.

The Waste Reduction Task Force for the Construction Industry has also pledged support for the scheme, citing its advantage in upholding the polluter pays principle and creating the necessary incentive for waste reduction. The Task Force found the proposed level of charges reasonable and urged the Government to proceed without delay, subject to availability of a satisfactory settlement mechanism for waste disposal charges and arrangements to exempt construction projects awarded before commencement of the scheme.

We recognize that it takes a collective and determined effort by all relevant parties to cope with the challenges lying ahead. To this end, the Working Group on Construction Waste under PCICB has amalgamated with the Task Force so that available expertise and knowledge could be pooled together for this purpose.

Yours sincerely,

(Russell Black)
Chairman
Working Group on Construction Waste,
Provisional Construction Industry Co-ordination Board

c.c. Chairman, Provisional Construction Industry Co-ordination Board