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香港廢物管理學會
Hong Kong Waste Management Association
P.O. Box 28705, Gloucester Road, Hong Kong
<http://www.hongkongwma.org.hk>

Members of Bills Committee,
Legislative Council,
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road,
Central, Hong Kong

27 April 2004

Dear Honorary Members,

Waste Disposal (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 2003

We, the Hong Kong Waste Management Association, are writing to reaffirm our support for the long-awaited landfill charging scheme. A consultation paper was circulated to invite comments from interested parties April 2002 but was not tabled for discussion at the Legislative Council level in 2003 Session.

We would like to reiterate our key comments made in the last consultation session hosted by Civil Engineering Department in May 2003 and April 2004.

1. We strongly support the implementation of the proposed charging scheme on construction waste disposed of at landfills as the very important first step to realize the Polluter Pays Principle on disposal of wastes in Hong Kong. We expect more comprehensive charging schemes covering other types of waste will soon follow.
2. We appreciate the flexibility allowed in the bill settlement arrangements to suit the waste disposal industry's requests. In addition, we support comments from the industry to improve user-friendliness of the scheme.

Page 1 of 2

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3. We would also like to emphasize that in spite of the obvious merits of the scheme, it would be impossible to please all interested parties. The proposed scheme should not be further delayed by frivolous debates over minute details. Further delay of the implementation of this scheme would undermine public confidence on Hong Kong's sincerity and competence over this issue. Furthermore, we see the implementation of landfill charging scheme as a timely initiative that may stimulate the economy and create job opportunities.
4. We believe the introduction of landfill charging would remove the present distortion in the market caused by the subsidy for disposal and allow recyclers to compete better with landfill disposal. This would assist small recycling companies who are facing difficult economic conditions, but would not reduce the business of waste haulers because there would still be a need to transport waste to recycling facilities.

We strongly believe that the overall effect of the landfill charging scheme would be beneficial to HK's economy, particularly the SMEs.

It is our sincere expectation that the Committee will take prompt actions to finalize the legislation of this very first and important landfill charging scheme. Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact our Honorary Secretary, Ms Caroline Yung, at 2590 5699. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,
Hong Kong Waste Management Association

James P C Tam
Vice Chairperson

Page 2 of 2

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