

New Campaign On Trash Launched ***Lawmakers Asked To Sign Landfill Ban Pledges***

LANSING—Clean Water Action today launched a public accountability campaign on out-of-state trash by calling on Michigan lawmakers to take formal, written pledges to reinstate a ban on new and expanded landfills. Since the landfill ban expired at the end of last year, at least six new landfill operations have applied or are likely to apply for new or expanded landfills.

“More landfills equal more trash from out of state,” said Cyndi Roper, Clean Water Action Great Lakes Policy Director. “Since the landfill moratorium expired, the Legislature has been ducking this issue and dragging its feet. Meanwhile, we get more trash from Canada and other states. It’s time to hold lawmakers accountable and let voters know which elected officials are talking the talk on trash and which are walking the walk and supporting the landfill expansion ban.”

Clean Water Action, joined by activists from communities hard-hit by the surge of imported garbage, circulated the pledges Tuesday to lawmakers at the State Capitol as they returned from a break in legislative session.

At least six landfills are poised to expand or build new sites to take in more Canadian and out-of-state trash. The citizens came from communities hard-hit by the surge of imported garbage, such as Monroe, Macomb, Wayne, Allegan, St. Clair and Ionia counties. Canada and other states sent 100,000 tons more trash to Michigan in 2005 compared with 2004.

A ban on new landfills expired Dec. 31, 2005. A group of Democratic lawmakers have introduced legislation to renew the ban, but Republican leaders have refused to renew the ban.

The six new or expanding landfill operations include Carleton Farms and Woodland Meadows in Wayne County; Pine Tree Acres in Macomb County; Southeast Berrien County Landfill in Berrien County; Whitefeather Landfill in Bay County; and a new landfill to be built in Allegan County.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality said Michigan took in 6.2 million tons of Canadian and out-of-state trash in 2005, 100,000 tons more than in 2004.