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May 21, 2018

The Vice President  
Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. Vice President,

It was a pleasure for Terry Guerin to see you last week in Indianapolis and speak with you regarding the challenges facing the recycling industry. We wanted to follow up on that conversation and provide you with additional information on the issues the recycling industry is having with China.

Over the past year, China has banned some curbside recyclables from the United States and has imposed an extremely stringent standard for other recyclables. Those recyclables are required to be 99.5 percent free of contaminants as of March 1. The lack of other markets for some of these materials has depressed their costs and resulted in them being stockpiled or, in some cases, landfilled. This has the potential to shake public confidence in recycling and create long term consequences in material quality and segregation efforts.

Just this month, the Chinese government has suspended operations of the China Certification and Inspection Group (CCIC North America), the company that provides pre-inspection services for recyclables being sent from North America to China, between May 4 and June 4. This effectively shuts down the export of all recyclables from the U.S. for the duration of the suspension, making the situation even worse.

Should this continue it could eventually lead to the loss of tens of thousands of jobs and the closure of many recycling businesses throughout North America since there currently is not enough global capacity to absorb the paper and plastics that had been going to China. The fallout from this ban could have a devastating effect on recycling that may set the industry back decades.

I ask that you reach out to the United States' trade delegation to China and tell them that this needs to be one of the priorities in their discussions with the Chinese government. Thank you for your consideration of this issue that is of great importance to both our economy and environment.

Most respectfully,

Terry L. Guerin  
Chair, Services Board of Governors  
National Waste & Recycling Association

Dr. Darrell K. Smith, PhD  
President and CEO  
National Waste & Recycling Association