

# BURNT

Tennessee General Assembly 15 February 2009

## SOLID WASTE IS A CONSERVATIVE ISSUE

### State Board Votes "NO" On Proposed Solid Waste Regulations

#### USE SOLID WASTE AS A RAW MATERIAL FOR JOBS & BUSINESS

>>>PROPOSED SOLID WASTE REGULATIONS PERPETUATE MORE REPORTS, INACCURATE STATISTICS, AND UNFUNDED LOCAL MANDATES TO BAN FOOD WASTE & YARD WASTE

**Tennessee solid waste is a Conservative issue. Prevent** dangerous methane gasses from landfills—compost food and yard waste. **Use resources** in solid waste to create jobs and businesses. Businesses and local government spend \$250 million [\$250,000,000] annually to landfill solid waste. **Protecting groundwater from landfills is protecting the people of your district** Solid waste and the environment are inexpensive ways to invest in the the people of your district

**BACK GROUND** SB2267/HB2289 [an administration bill—year 2007] required the State Solid Waste Disposal Board to consider new solid waste regulations (Bill—pg. 4-5). TDEC created the 'State Solid Waste Reduction Task Force' to develop new regulations. The 'Task Force' was comprised of 23 members--23 out of 23 white, 21 out of 23 white male, and 20 out of 23 local solid waste managers [one BURNT officer was on the Task Force]. **The Task Force voted**

1. The Task Force was not the way to reform solid waste—a part time, executive director or consultant was needed and the process should take several years
2. Tennessee solid waste reports and records do not reflect reality
3. Tennessee 25% diversion goal (credits landfilled construction waste as diverted) has not worked.

**CURRENT STATUS** **Twice** the State Solid Waste Disposal Board voted to not let these proposed regulations go out for public comment--regulations will not be considered by the State Solid Waste Disposal Board until June 2008. The State Board questioned little budget information on new regulations, unfunded local mandates to compost food and yard waste, reporting procedures, and that Tennessee is among national leaders in landfilling per capita.

**THE PROBLEM WITH THESE REGULATIONS--THEY ARE NOT BASED ON THE CONTENT OF THE WASTE STREAM** >>>If you start with what is in solid waste... solutions are self evident<<< **START WITH CONTENT OF THE WASTE NOT MORE REPORTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO SOLID WASTE REGIONS REGIONS AND THE STATE**

**Food waste (12%), yard waste (13%), paper/cardboard (36%), construction and demolition (20%), and metals (9%), miscellaneous (10%).....we PLAN based on content of waste**

>>composting food and yard waste—25%—keep it separate when pick up.

>>largest 18 counties generate 50% of the waste.

>>construction and demolition waste is a top priority

>>how can large food stores, universities, public schools, business parks, and restaurants compost food/yard waste and process other waste