

County Commissioners  
Danielle Bethell, Chair  
Colm Willis  
Kevin Cameron



Chief Administrative  
Officer  
Jan Fritz

## MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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March 30, 2025

Chair Senator Janeen Sollman  
Vice-Chair Senator David Brock Smith  
Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

### **RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 1067 – Municipal Waste Flow Control in Marion County**

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee:

The Marion County Board of Commissioners writes in strong opposition to Senate Bill 1067. This bill proposes to authorize individual cities within Marion County to control or direct the disposal, transfer, or material or energy recovery of solid waste generated within their boundaries, undermining decades-long countywide framework that has protected the environment, sustained essential public infrastructure, and promoted responsible waste management.

Marion County has invested heavily in an integrated solid waste management system, including public facilities such as our transfer stations and a waste-to-energy facility. Flow control has enabled us to ensure financial stability for these facilities, allowing revenues to support operations, infrastructure upgrades, environmental protections, and debt obligations. Fragmenting this system would severely impact the sustainability of these public assets.

To the best of our knowledge, no cities within Marion County have requested this legislation. Solid waste management and environmental services are complex, highly regulated responsibilities that require significant expertise, infrastructure, and coordination. These services are more effectively managed at the county or regional level, where economies of scale and long-term planning can be leveraged to benefit all communities. Flow control allows Marion County to negotiate better pricing and service terms due to larger volumes and regional partnerships, advantages that would be lost if individual cities were left to manage waste independently with lower volumes and less bargaining power.

Beyond financial considerations, flow control enables us to implement robust environmental protections by directing waste to facilities that meet stringent environmental standards. It also promotes regional planning and innovation, allowing for long-term strategies that prioritize recycling, diversion, and waste reduction.

Most importantly, centralized oversight allows us to uphold public health and safety standards and ensures consistency in service and regulatory enforcement. This centralized system also

supports local economic development, sustaining jobs and keeping disposal revenues within our regional economy.

Senate Bill 1067 threatens to dismantle this successful, countywide model and introduce a fragmented approach that could increase costs, create regulatory confusion, reduce environmental protections, and compromise public services. We urge the Committee to oppose SB 1067 and preserve Marion County's ability to manage solid waste in a way that benefits all our residents and communities.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Three handwritten signatures in blue ink are displayed horizontally. From left to right, they are: Danielle Bethell, Colm Willis, and Kevin Cameron. Each signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danielle Bethell  
Chair

Colm Willis  
Commissioner

Kevin Cameron  
Commissioner