

American Industry Restructuring (AIR)

New and Renewal Industries

“First, a few proposals on the Lighter Side of things”

This set of Industry related proposals concern the types of businesses that currently exist and could be restructured and expanded, as well as those that could be created in order to benefit to the American economy, when approached in a more publicly beneficial and sometimes realistic manner! These will be **domestic-based** industries to be owned and operated by American citizens as *First Right*. Such businesses will provide local jobs and benefits to employees, while providing goods and services for the nation, and the always needed tax revenues. This proposal set addresses:

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18 Re-Cycling as a Major Domestic Industry

Issue/Problem

Recycling is not a problem rather it is a grand commercial and environmental opportunity at the national level. To say that we as a nation are not recycling enough is a gross understatement!

News Flash — Recycling in America is a potential source of more domestic-based jobs and will absolutely help the environment – win/win! It needs to, it must become a national priority and each of us needs to warm up to the habit of recycling everything we possibly can. Just developing a civilly and environmentally good habit!

I will not bother with a lot of statistics, because American society knows we are only scratching the surface when it comes to the benefits that could be derived from the routine and consistent recycling of materials, especially soda and beer cans, glass, plastics, cardboard, and newspapers.

This is where you and I come in. Individuals, families, and businesses need to become aware of their responsibility to recycle whatever they can every day. It will only take us the few moments required to set aside products that we touch almost every day, to be recycled rather than being tossed in a trash can. Yes, we might need to dirty our hands once in a while!

Landfills all over the country are filling up much faster than they need to, thus forcing new ones to be created at a far greater rate than necessary. City and county governments could then be spending less time fighting with the public on where to build the next landfill, as well as collecting our tax dollars needed to construct and maintain them.

Companies like Waste Management, Inc., and the other major recycling companies of America would see their business volume skyrocket! Vast amounts of raw materials would be re-cycled back into the manufacturing food chain rather than being “lost” into the ground. More jobs (county and city areas) would be created in both the collection and processing of recyclables – all over the nation – right where the trash is made!

Every city in the nation has people in need of work. Each municipality would work with the Waste and Recycling companies to create such collection and sorting centers. These would not be government jobs and would create full and part-time positions for local people.

Consider that the average population of the 435 US Congressional Districts (USD) exceeds 650,000 people! There are seven (7) states

with just one (1) USD in Congress and the largest population among them is Montana with over 900,000. Wyoming, also with one seat has the smallest USD in Congress with around 500,000 people (about the number of people tobacco kills each year)..

Each of the 435 USDs could easily establish major collection and re-cycling operation centers providing jobs for local people, helping the environment, and other worthwhile benefits to society. Creating jobs instead of continuing to bury them in the ground! Interesting?

Then maybe we could quit sending some of our trash to China to be processed into products that they sell back to us! The economics of that need to be laid out for public review. There must be a better way.

And all that each of We the People need to do to make such a positive national endeavor a gargantuan success is to remember to **“think before you throw.”**

The People’s Sense

This is so simple, talk about a total no-brainer. Recycling needs to become a routine practice for all Americans — and as natural as buckling our seat belt when we get in the car. We put on our seat belts to protect our lives and our children’s — so we can all learn to recycle to help protect the environment of today and for the future our children and their’s will be living in.

We will encourage every family unit (one or more people) to have a simple recycling bag in the kitchen — just a plastic grocery bag (or sack) hung over a door knob to drop items instead of the trashcan. We can begin promoting this with our kids in grades K to 12 – there are about 48 million of them!

Imagine, the numbers to be generated by one (1) bottle or can per day times 48,000,000 children for only five (5) days a week, spread over a single year:

- 48,000,000 items per day
- 240,000,000 items per 5-day week
- 12,480,000,000 items per 52-week year

And that is only one item per day, Monday thru Friday – not counting the weekends!! Obviously, it is only a tiny, tiny fraction of what could be saved from landfills and reused!

The American Recycling Movement (ARM)

And since we like everything to have name or title we could call it the American Recycling Movement or ARM!

This is a fundamental Act of Civil Obedience! Interesting? We the People could us this simple exercise to let our local and federal governments know that we do really care and are deeply concerned about such things, and that we demand their action.

We can unite and work to bury to our municipalities and the Recycling Industry (they would love us for it) in collected material. The gargantuan volume would force the federal and state governments to require related American businesses to use recycled resources, particularly metal, paper and the plastic that comes from oil, rather than drawing so much upon natural resources and worse yet, being required to import such materials.

It would help preserve what natural resources we have for future use. Some new businesses would be started and will be jobs created in the process. These are all good things!

Generation Outlets and Collection Centers

Let's assume that the growing number of recyclables we generate at home and at work locations as a result of people getting into the spirit of the ARM program will be taken care of as natural expansion of the existing Waste and Recycling industry.

Most of the business community is not currently seriously committed to the effort as they need to be. Grimly I have even seen some that actually do collect bottles, cans, and paper for recycling, but the materials wind up going out the back door into the regular trash. Rude! Business can do better.

That said now let's think of the other places that generate large amounts of recyclable products but usually do nothing to collect anything, but trash that goes directly to landfills, such as:

- Convenience stores
- Gas station/food marts
- Fast food restaurants
- Baseball, football, soccer stadiums
- Basketball, ice hockey arenas
- Car and horse racing tracks

You get the idea. And there are also public schools and higher education sites! A huge amount of 'stuff' that mindlessly goes in the ground.

We can do better than that "under the ARM" program — even though it will take each of us a little time here and there.

We can learn to responsibly separate at least some of the recycling when throwing away trash at Wendy's, McDonald's or the other fast food houses across the country – think of those coffee cups and salad containers going into the ground. Those businesses can coordinate with trash removal companies to place recycling containers in their parking lots. It is their civic responsibility.

Companies such as Home Depot and Loews can get on the band-wagon. Shopping centers and malls in every town, along with sporting facility parking lots normally with excess parking lot space can install large recycling containers for public drop-off.

It's a matter everybody doing a little bit to yield tremendous results for the environment, related industries, and American jobs.

Recycling is a personal action that helps each person directly contribute to the re-use and preservation of our natural resources. It is a mindset that is already growing and could easily be expanded among the American public.

You get the idea — just **“think before you throw.”**

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That proposal was fun! Now for one that will finally kill a seventy (70) year old myth...