



July 14, 2020

The Honorable Frank D. Scott, Jr.
Mayor
City of Little Rock
500 West Markham Street, Room 203
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mayor Scott and Members of the Board of Directors:

On behalf of the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI), I would like to offer our association's strong perspective on the recycling contract under consideration. GPI is the North American trade association for the glass container manufacturing industry, its supply chain partners, including companies who specialize in the processing of recycled glass for reuse in containers and other beneficial use.

As you consider alternatives for a new waste management contract, GPI urges the city to prioritize the actual recycling of the glass, rather than its disposal in a landfill. There are glass manufacturing interests in Arkansas, and several end-market production facilities in Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana that all are seeking more quality recycled glass supply.

Glass is among the most sustainable and circular of packaging materials, with recycled glass capable of being reused and remade into new containers endlessly without any degradation in material. Recycled glass is a key ingredient in making new bottles and jars, offsetting the use of raw material natural resources, and reducing the amount of energy needed to make new containers. On average, new bottles and jars are currently one-third recycled content, and the industry is looking to increase that percentage over the next decade. The key to successful glass recycling and getting the most out of the sustainable and circular nature of glass is quality.

The key to quality is the manner in which the material is collected and the facility where the material is going to be processed. Facilities and companies who do not prioritize glass recovery, may have poor quality output and then often prefer to benefit from the weight of the material in a landfill. Other vendors who do prioritize glass recovery have higher quality material that has value in the marketplace.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions and consider the GPI a resource and advocate for recycling opportunities and challenges. Thank you for your consideration of our comments in support of the contract.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott DeFife". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Scott DeFife
President