



ARKANSAS  
Marketing  
Board  
For  
Recyclables

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Carl Rosenbaum, Chairman  
Arkansas State Highway Department Commission  
P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, AR 72203  
April 17, 2009

Dear Mr. Rosenbaum:

We are the members of Arkansas State Marketing Board for Recyclables appointed by the Governor. One of our duties is “to advise and assist state and local officials in all areas of recyclables.” (Ark Stat. 8-9-201(g)(7)).

A Motion was unanimously approved at our last State Marketing Board meeting on March 11, 2009, to send this letter to each of you serving as Commissioners of the Arkansas State Highway Department. In our research and discussions, the need and financial benefit of using recyclables in our roadways has become apparent. Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania now use up to 5% recycled asphalt shingles in their hot mix asphalt. Missouri has been using recycled asphalt shingles in their hot mix asphalt since 2003 and presently use up to 7%.

Some important reasons these states have benefited from the usage of recycled asphalt shingles in roadways is the fact that prices for virgin material such as oil and asphalt binders have been on the rise. Using 5% recycled asphalt shingles in the hot mix asphalt provides approximately 1% to 2% of the oil necessary for making asphalt and reduces the cost of the asphalt mix by at least \$5 ton. The recycled asphalt shingles contain large amounts of asphalt granules that are hard and durable, providing for roadways that resist rutting and cold weather cracking.

In the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department’s Arkansas Statewide Long-Range Intermodal Transportation Plan, page 10, Emerging Issues: Construction and Maintenance Costs, states:

*“Arkansas’ construction costs have increased an average of approximately ten percent, annually, over the past five fiscal years....”*

*In 1977, a \$10 million overlay program would have resulted in the improvement of over 400 miles of highways....Today, a \$10 million overlay program will improve only 55 miles of highways, which is 14% of what could have been improved in 1977 or 33% of what could have been improved in 1991.”*

We commend the highway department for placing a recycled asphalt mix on Zion Road in Fayetteville. We are also aware that the City of Fayetteville has used the recycled asphalt mix in several city streets and parking lots. There are many city and rural streets, parking lots, bike and walking trails in Arkansas that could benefit from the lower cost of using recyclables such as asphalt shingles, plus the added benefits of keeping these shingles out of our landfills. (According to the EPA website, there is an estimated 11 million tons of waste shingles generated in the United States annually).

We urge you to examine the research on the utilization of recycled asphalt mix in roadways, including the successful results that states such as Missouri have accomplished. With the continued depletion and escalating prices of our natural resources, now is the optimum time to join our neighboring states in implementing the use of recyclables in our city and county roadways and our Arkansas State highways.

We appreciate your involvement in making Arkansas a greener state and decreasing the amount of recyclables that are placed in our landfills. We anxiously await a response to this matter.

Sincerely,

State Marketing Board for Recyclables

George Wheatley, Chairman  
Tim Freel, Co-Chairman  
Patsy Weidanz, Secretary  
Les Jackson, Member  
Robert Pettz, Member

cc: Governor Mike Beebe