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INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-110

REQUESTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR TO STUDY THE OPERATIONS OF THE ARKANSAS WASTE TIRE PROGRAM AND THE POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVING THE STRENGTH OF THE ARKANSAS WASTE TIRE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, improperly managed or stockpiled tires can be costly to clean up and hazardous to the environment and public health, presenting a fire risk and ideal habitat for the breeding of mosquitoes and other disease-transmitting vectors; and

WHEREAS, waste tires present a difficult disposal problem for landfills; and

WHEREAS, processed waste tires are a valuable commodity that can be beneficially recycled into many products, including advanced pavement surfaces, tire-derived fuel, flooring and molded products, rubber mulch and surfaces, and civil engineering aggregate; and

WHEREAS, waste tire end-market development programs, including economic incentives to reduce the high cost of producing commodities and products from waste tires, are proven strategies to drive better end-of-life outcomes for waste tires; and

WHEREAS, these end-market development programs also support economic development and jobs in the recycling industry; and

WHEREAS, free-market waste tire programs have been shown to be effective and capture almost all waste tires in a state; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas waste tire programs require substantial

1 improvements in order to produce better financial and environmental outcomes,

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3 NOW THEREFORE,

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6 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
7 OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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9 THAT the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study
10 the operations of the Arkansas waste tire program and the potential for
11 improving the financial and environmental strength of the Arkansas waste tire
12 program, including without limitation:

13 (1) The full-cost accounting of the current program, including
14 the full-cost accounting of each used tire program district;

15 (2) Appropriate definitions for tire categories by size and use
16 for small, large, extra-large, and off-the-road, also known as "OTR", tires
17 and appropriate associate disposal fees;

18 (3) Where and how any tire disposal fee should be applied for
19 all scrapped tires generated;

20 (4) Innovations in other state programs that encourage higher-
21 end uses for waste tires, including market-development programs and
22 incentives to processors;

23 (5) An assessment of whole tire and processed material
24 inventories and any steps to be taken to reduce the number of tires or
25 processed materials currently not properly disposed of in legal storage or
26 illegal dump sites;

27 (6) Recommendations for changes to the waste tire program that
28 will put the program on a sustainable financial footing while providing for
29 efficient management of the state's waste tires and better environmental
30 outcomes for Arkansas;

31 (7) An investigation of potential state actions to create
32 markets and outlets for used tire materials and products;

33 (8) Analysis of manifest systems for efficiency, modernization,
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and effectiveness; and
(9) Any steps to be taken to reduce illegal dumping in the
future.

Respectfully submitted,
Senator Missy Irvin
District 24

Senator John Payton
District 22

Prepared by: JMB/JMB