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GREEN JOBS FROM WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING

This business is an excellent example of the small business creativity and start up potential that is developing throughout America. I believe we should encourage these recycling and waste reduction businesses as part of a Federal emphasis in developing a regional and sustainable economy. It is important to understand that reuse and recycling of materials will create jobs, whether the material is newspaper, soda cans, batteries, compact fluorescent lights, automobile tires for retreading or electronic equipment.

Used electronic equipment that is diverted from the landfill and recycled back into use is a tremendous good thing. Good because it creates jobs, and because it teaches electronic skills to the employees. Good because it helps provide affordable computer equipment to low income people and thus improves their educational opportunities. Good because it educates consumers to add more into their recycling bins and less into their throw away trash. In a few years as analog televisions are replaced with digital, there will be a large influx of e-waste, which contains valuable copper, gold and circuit chips. In their October, 2007 report, the Illinois Recycling association estimates there will be 120,000 tons of E-scrap in Illinois by 2010.

When collected with skill and care, and upgraded with quality in mind, electronic recycling becomes a local resource that contributes to local revenue, job creation, business expansion and the local economic base. Again quoting the Illinois Recycling Association, every 1000 tons of electronic material that is land filled creates less than one job. The same amount of material recycled creates nearly 15 jobs. And the same amount of material repaired and reused will create 200 jobs. If we repair and reuse 50% of our e-waste and recycle 50%, Illinois can create nearly 13,000 locally created and sustainable jobs. This example of electronic recycling is part of the Green Job economy that Americans can develop, and someday lead the world in solving the problems of global warming and reducing energy waste.

