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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEWS RELEASE

**Legislative Commission's Committee to Study the Deposits and Refunds
on Recycled Products**
(Assembly Bill 427, Chapter 462, *Statutes of Nevada 2011*)

Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2012
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: Grant Sawyer State Office Building
Room 4401
555 E. Washington Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada
Videoconference:
Legislative Building
Room 2135
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada

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INTERIM STUDY ON RECYCLING TO MEET IN LAS VEGAS

Assemblyman James Ohrenschall (D-Las Vegas) announced today that the Legislative Commission's Committee to Study the Deposits and Refunds on Recycled Products will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2012, at 3 p.m. in Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building in Las Vegas. The meeting will be simultaneously videoconferenced to Room 2135 of the Legislative Building in Carson City. Interested persons who cannot attend the meeting in person may view it on the Nevada Legislature's Internet website (see: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/MeetingDisplay/AudioVideo/>). An agenda is attached with this news release.

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Assemblyman Ohrenschall, Chair of the Committee, explained that the meeting will begin with an overview of Assembly Bill 427 of the 2011 Legislative Session, which authorized the interim study, followed by several overviews highlighting national and statewide recycling programs. The Committee will hear presentations relating to recycling efforts and partnerships by the State of Nevada, the waste collection industry, the environmental community, and select nonprofit organizations. **“Tuesday is the first of four meetings of the interim study on recycling,”** explained Ohrenschall. **“I am very pleased at the high level of interest in this important issue. We have a very balanced agenda that will explore not only the issues relating to deposits and refunds of recycled products, but recycling practices in general.”** Assembly Bill 427 was introduced during the 2011 Legislative Session to establish a beverage container redemption program for the State of Nevada. The measure received considerable attention during the session and lawmakers, citing budget concerns and the need to address the issue in greater depth, amended the bill to create the interim study. The Committee plans to make formal recommendations to the 2013 Nevada Legislature.

The agenda features several representatives from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection who oversee a number of recycling related programs. Also on the agenda are presentations from Republic Services, Inc. and Waste Management of Nevada, as well as the University of Nevada, Las Vegas’ Public Lands Institute/Don’t Trash Nevada program. The Committee will also hear overviews from two out-of-state organizations, Strategic Materials, Inc., and Northbridge Environmental Management Consultants, on the benefits of recycling, efforts to enhance recycling, and considerations for possible beverage container deposit and refund legislation. The Retail Association of Nevada will also provide the Committee with an overview on the role of retailers under a deposit and refund program. Finally, the Committee will hear about the environmental benefits of recycling from the Nevada Conservation League, the Sierra Club, and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful.

“The Committee has a specific charge to evaluate the possible creation of a program that requires the payment and refund of deposits on recyclable products in Nevada,” noted Ohrenschall. **“However, we also have broader authority to consider other methods of encouraging recycling in Nevada. This is extremely important, as Nevada has a recycling rate of about 20 percent, one of the lowest in the county.”** Ohrenschall hopes to promote programs that increase recycling participation dramatically. At least two periods for public comment will also be provided at the meeting.

The other members of the Committee to Study the Deposits and Refunds on Recycled Products are: Senator Mark A. Manendo, Vice Chair (D–Las Vegas), Senator Don Gustavson (R-Sparks), Senator Ruben J. Kihuen (D–Las Vegas), Assemblyman Pete Livermore (R-Carson City), and Assemblywoman April Mastroluca (D–Henderson).

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