

Press Release

For Immediate Release
Friday, November 16, 2007

Media Contact:
Marjorie Griek, Executive Director
Colorado Association for Recycling
Office: 970-535-4053
Cell: 720-839-9531
marjie@cafr.org

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SIGNS RESOLUTION SUPPORTING GOAL AND MISSION OF AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

(Washington, D.C.) – The United States House of Representatives passed a resolution supporting the goal and mission of America Recycles Day and encouraging all Americans to participate in promoting the social, environmental, and economic benefits of recycling and buying recycled-content products. Representative Mark Udall from Colorado supported the bill, which was introduced by Representative Inslee from Washington State, submitted to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and passed by the House of Representatives on November 13.

According to the resolution, each person in the United States generates approximately 4.5 pounds of waste per day, and is almost triple the amount of municipal solid waste generated in 1960. The Environmental Protection Agency reports that 30 percent of municipal solid waste is recovered for recycling or composting, 14 percent is incinerated, and the remaining 56 percent is disposed of in landfills. A significant amount of the waste that is incinerated or sent to landfills can be recovered for recycling or composting through source separation, mechanical separation, and community-based recycling programs.

Recycling saves energy, which in turn can reduce American dependence on foreign oil and prevent pollution associated with energy production; reduces the need to extract certain natural resources; can create more jobs than incineration and landfilling; can cost communities less than other waste disposal options; supplies valuable raw materials to industry; stimulates green technology development; and reduces the need for new landfills and combustors.

The resolution concludes that there remains significant opportunity to increase recycling in the United States, and Americans should be encouraged to participate in educational, organizational, and legislative endeavors that promote waste separation methods, community-based recycling programs, and expanded utilization of recovered materials.

America Recycles Day 2007 is one of the most comprehensive recycling awareness campaigns in the nation. Each year millions of people become better informed about the advantages of recycling at home and buying recycled products as a result of the campaign.

America Recycles Day 2007 maintains a website at www.americarecyclesday.org where you can go for information about national events and to sign an online pledge to recycle and to learn more about recycling.

###