Dear Ohio Business:

The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District, Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, Ohio Manufacturers' Association, Ohio Chamber of Commerce and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) invite you to participate in a statewide recycling survey.

The purpose of this survey is to collect data on the amounts and types of materials commercial and industrial businesses recycled in Ohio in 2015. The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District is required to document its recycling efforts in an annual report to Ohio EPA. The District uses the data it receives through surveys to complete that report. By submitting data, your business can help the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District meet its reporting requirements. Your data will also help the District track its progress towards meeting local and state recycling goals.

Why is your business being surveyed?

Your business is located in the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District. The District facilitates recycling and reduction efforts for commercial and industrial businesses, institutions, residents, and schools. In order to determine what programs make the most sense and whether programs are achieving intended results, the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District needs to know what and how much material was recycled.

Your completed survey will help the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District better understand recycling in the business community in Lorain County. Submitting a completed survey also allows your business to connect directly with the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District which may be able to assist your company with its recycling needs.

How do I participate in the survey?

You can print and fill out a hard copy or download a Microsoft Word fillable form from Ohio EPA's survey webpage – whichever is easier for you. Click on the arrow next to the listing for Lorain County and select the correct survey for your business. When you are done, you can either mail or email the completed survey to the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District. Instructions for completing and returning the survey are provided on the survey form.

What happens to my data?

The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District will combine your data with data it receives from other businesses and submit the combined data in its annual report to Ohio EPA. Ohio EPA will use the data to calculate recycling rates for the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District. The District's 2014 data is posted on Ohio EPA's webpage along with the survey forms. To see that data, click on "View Previous Year's Survey Results." Ohio EPA will also combine the data reported by all solid waste management districts to calculate a recycling rate for Ohio.

Who do I contact for more information?

Please contact the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District's consultant Molly Kathleen at GT Environmental, Inc. with any questions regarding the survey. Molly can be reached at (740) 212-3430 or mkathleen@gtenvironmental.com. For questions about the survey website, please contact Ernie Stall at Ohio EPA. You can reach Ernie at ernest.stall@epa.ohio.gov or (614) 728-5356.

Please complete and return the survey by **March 25, 2016**.

Thank you for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

Keith Bailey