Dear Ohio Business:

The Ashland County Solid Waste Management District and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency invite you to participate in a statewide recycling survey. The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, The Ohio Manufacturers' Association, and Ohio Chamber of Commerce support this survey initiative for the valuable data it yields about Ohio's recycling programs.

The purpose of this survey is to collect data on the amounts and types of materials commercial and industrial businesses recycled in Ohio in 2016. The Ashland 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 Ashland 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 in the Ashland County Solid Waste Management District. The District facilitates recycling and reduction efforts for commercial and industrial businesses, institutions, residents, and schools. To identify the programs that make the most sense and determine whether programs are achieving intended results, the Ashland County Solid Waste Management District needs to know what and how much material was recycled.

Your completed survey will help the Ashland County Solid Waste Management District better understand recycling in the business community in Ashland County. Submitting a completed survey also allows your business to connect directly with the 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 county your business is in and select the correct survey for your business. When you are done, you can either mail or email the completed survey to the Ashland County Solid Waste Management District. Instructions for completing and returning the survey are provided on the survey form.

What happens to my data?

The Ashland 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 District. The District's 2015 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 Haley Rowe, the consultant for the Ashland County Solid Waste Management District, with any questions regarding the survey. Haley can be reached at (419) 891-2222 x 186 or **HRowe@manniksmithgroup.com**. For questions about Ohio EPA's survey webpage, please contact Ernie Stall. You can reach Ernie at ernest.stall@epa.ohio.gov or (614) 728-5356.

Please complete and return the survey to the Haley Rowe by 4/3/2017.

Thank you for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

Cindy Brady