

Councilman Yurdin:

## **City of Providence Resolution In Support of Extended Producer Responsibility**

**WHEREAS**, Manufactured goods and packaging constitute approximately 75% of the materials managed by U.S municipalities, based on figures reported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, The municipal waste management system was established a century ago to manage far simpler and more homogeneous wastes like ashes, food scraps and horse manure, rather than the manufactured goods and packaging which dominate today's municipal waste; and

**WHEREAS**, Hazardous and hard-to-recycle product management costs are expected to increase substantially in the near future unless policy changes are made; and

**WHEREAS**, There are significant environmental and human health impacts associated with improper management of hazardous products; and

**WHEREAS**, Costs paid by citizens and local governments to manage discarded products are in effect subsidies to producers that enable and encourage producers to design products for disposal without regard to end-of-life product- management costs and hazards; and

**WHEREAS**, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an environmental policy approach in which producers accept responsibility for the end-of-life management of their products, so that those who produce and use products bear the costs of recycling and responsible disposal; and

**WHEREAS**, When producers are responsible for ensuring that their products are reused or recycled responsibly, and when health and environmental costs are included in the product price, there is an incentive to design products that are more durable, easier to repair and recycle, and less toxic; and

**WHEREAS**, Jobs in disassembly, reuse, repair and recycling are generated by EPR, offering significant local economic development opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, The Rhode Island legislature has committed to achieving greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and EPR policies are important strategies for achieving this goal through reduction of manufacturing and disposal emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Providence City Council supports statewide legislation to hold producers responsible for hazardous product discard management and other product waste management costs; and

**WHEREAS**, EPR legislation for discarded electronic waste has been passed in 18 states and New York City; and

**WHEREAS**, State law established an manufacturer financed system, similar to EPR, for the collection, recycling, and reuse of certain electronic products; and

**WHEREAS**, Earlier this year, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed a joint resolution requesting the Department of Environmental Management to develop recommendations for establishing an EPR program.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

That the Providence City Council urges the Rhode Island General Assembly to enact comprehensive EPR legislation based on the *Framework Principles for Product Stewardship Policy*; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

That the Providence City Council does hereby request that the Department of Public Works develop recommendations for establishing an EPR program in Providence.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

That the City of Providence include preferential producer take-back language in purchasing contracts where feasible.