

RESOLUTION OF CITY OF CLIFTON SUPPORTING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR) FOR A SUSTAINABLE NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has established a goal of Recycling 60% of our solid waste from disposal for all New Jersey Municipalities; and

WHEREAS, state policies currently make local governments responsible for achieving waste diversion goals and enforcing product disposal bans which includes hazardous and hard-to-recycle products that create significant environmental and human health impacts along with expected increases in management costs unless policy changes are made; and

WHEREAS, the City of Clifton taxpayers pay approximately \$ 5,000,000 each year for the collection and disposal of discarded manufactured goods and packaging which constitute approximately 75% of the materials generated by most communities throughout the U.S., 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 (non-biodegradable) packaging which dominate today's municipal waste; and

WHEREAS, local governments have no input into the design or marketing of products, make no profit from the products, and do not have the resources to adequately address the rising volume of discarded products; and


WHEREAS, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an environmental policy approach in which producers (brand owners and importers) accept responsibility for the management of post-consumer 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 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, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is 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, jobs in demanufacturing, disassembly, reuse, refillability, repair and recycling are generated by EPR, offering significant local economic development opportunities; and

WHEREAS, EPR legislation for discarded electronic waste has been passed in many states INCLUDING New Jersey, and the City of Clifton supports additional EPR legislation to hold producers responsible for the management and costs of hazardous and other product discards, so that citizens do not continue to "subsidize" producers to design products for disposal such as: discarded tires, carpets, all types of batteries, fluorescent bulbs, household chemicals, pesticides, fertilizers, all types of paints and packaging, etc.; and

APPROVED AS TO FORM

MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Clifton serves notice to the State of New Jersey and to manufacturers and distributors of products and packaging sold in our jurisdiction, that it supports the transfer of responsibility for the costs of managing products at end-of-life to producers (brand owners and first importers), under oversight of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Clifton urges the New Jersey Legislature to review comprehensive EPR legislation based on the *Framework Principles for Product Stewardship Policy* which will give producers the incentive to design products to make them less toxic and easier to reuse and recycle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Clifton will include where feasible EPR language into product procurement practices such as leasing products rather than purchasing them, and specifying product and packaging collection and recycling requirements in contracts for commodities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that City of Clifton will send letters to the State legislatures and State associations such as New Jersey Waste Wise Business Network, and to use other advocacy methods to support EPR legislation.

INTRODUCED Matthew J. Ward

ADOPTED: August 17, 2010

James Anzaldi

JAMES ANZALDI, Mayor

ATTEST:

Barbara J. Nagy
BARBARA J. NAGY, City Clerk

Certified a true copy

Barbara J. Nagy