

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF HARDWICK SUPPORTING EXTENDED  
PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR)**

**WHEREAS**, manufactured goods and packaging constitute approximately 75% of the materials managed by U.S municipalities at considerable costs; and

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

**WHEREAS**, products and packaging are often toxic or disposable by design, and 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 associated packaging; and

**WHEREAS**, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR; also called Product Stewardship) is an environmental policy approach in which producers (brand owners or first importers into the State) accept responsibility for management of their discarded 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**, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Draft Solid Waste Master Plan: Pathway to Zero Waste, 2010-20 includes producer responsibility as one of five major components of the Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Massachusetts legislature has enacted producer responsibility programs for certain mercury-containing products; and

**WHEREAS**, more than half the states in the US have EPR laws; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Hardwick supports statewide legislation to hold producers responsible for product discard management and other product waste management costs,

**WHEREAS**, Framework EPR codifies the EPR principle and gives the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection the authority to address multiple products over time; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Hardwick supports the mission of the Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council, working with other Massachusetts municipalities and other states to move EPR policy forward, and supports the *Framework Principles for Product Stewardship Policy* adopted by seven Product Stewardship

Councils in North America, including the Massachusetts, Vermont, and New York Councils;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN OF HARDWICK** gives notice to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts 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 discarded products to producers (brand owners and first importers), under oversight of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Hardwick departments be authorized to send letters to the State legislature and State associations and to use other advocacy methods to support EPR legislation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Hardwick urges the Massachusetts legislature to enact EPR legislation for discarded electronic waste this year, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Hardwick urges the Massachusetts legislature to enact comprehensive EPR legislation based on the *Framework Principles for Product Stewardship Policy*; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Hardwick will work with the Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to enact EPR legislation and regulation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the TOWN OF HARDWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN, Commonwealth of Massachusetts on ~~November 23, 2010~~ by the following vote: ~~November 23, 2010~~  
December 13, 2010

AYES: 3  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Richard V. Krivic

Date: ~~XXXXXX~~  
12/13/10

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Eric Vollheim, Clerk