

# **TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN RESOLUTION**

## **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 homogenous wastes like ashes, food scraps and horse manure, rather than manufactured goods and packaging which dominates 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 (ERP) 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 to bear the cost 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 Charlestown Town 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 a 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 Charlestown Town Council joins the Jamestown and Burrillville Town Councils in urging the Rhode Island General Assembly to enact comprehensive EPR legislation based on the *Framework Principals for Product Stewardship Policy*.

By Order of the Charlestown Town Council

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Thomas B. Gentz, President

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby attach my hand and the official seal  
of the Town of Charlestown this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2011.

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Jodi P. LaCroix, CMC, Town Clerk