

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
AND
PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

**TOWN OF NORTH SMITHFIELD
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 waste 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, 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 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 achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions and EPR policies are important strategies for achieving this goal through reduction of manufacturing and disposal emissions; and

WHEREAS, The North Smithfield 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 North Smithfield Town 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 North Smithfield Town Council does hereby request that the Department of Public Works develop recommendations for establishing an EPR program in North Smithfield; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of North Smithfield includes preferential producer take-back language in purchasing contracts where feasible.

Approved as to form: _____
Richard Nadeau, Jr., Town Solicitor

NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Edward F. Yazbak, President

Christine A. Charest, Vice President

Kimberly A. Alves

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