

CITY OF WORCESTER

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF 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 City of Worcester 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 City of Worcester 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 CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER 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 city of Worcester urges the Massachusetts legislature to enact EPR legislation for discarded electronic waste this year, and

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

In City Council

January 11, 2011

Resolution adopted by a yea and nay vote of Ten Yeas and No Nays.

A Copy. Attest:



**David J. Rushford
City Clerk**