

**City of Woonsocket
Rhode Island**



January 26, 2011

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 wastes 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: 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 (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 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 Woonsocket City 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 an manufacturer financed system, similar to EPR, for the collection, recycling, and reuse of certain electronic products; and

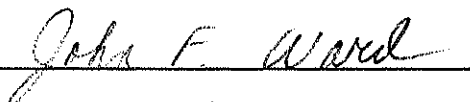
WHEREAS: earlier this year, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed a joint resolution requesting the Department of Environmental Management to develop recommendations for establishing an EPR program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the Woonsocket City Council urges the Rhode Island General Assembly to enact comprehensive EPR legislation based on the *Framework Principles for Product Stewardship Policy*; and

Section 2. That the Woonsocket City Council does hereby request that the Department of Public Works develop recommendations for establishing an EPR program in Woonsocket.

Section 3. That the City of Woonsocket include preferential producer take-back language in purchasing contracts where feasible.



John Ward, City Council President
"By Request of the Administration"

IN CITY COUNCIL February 7, 2011 - Read by title and passed.