

Resolution No.61

Submitted by:

The Honorable Christopher L. Cabaldon  
Mayor of West Sacramento

The Honorable Mike McGinn  
Mayor of Seattle

### **SUPPORTING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRODUCTS**

1. **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Conference of Mayors 2000 Resolution, entitled "Shared Responsibility for Waste Reduction," urged the membership to engage in dialogue with manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and citizens in their communities and develop voluntary programs regarding Shared Responsibility for Waste Reduction with measurable goals and objectives; and
2. **WHEREAS**, state policies currently hold local governments responsible for achieving waste diversion goals and enforcing product disposal bans, both of which are unfunded mandates; and
3. **WHEREAS**, the costs to manage problematic products are currently borne by taxpayers and rate payers and these costs are increasing substantially and will continue to do so unless policy changes are made; and
4. **WHEREAS**, approximately 250 million tons of discarded products and packaging are currently managed in communities each year; and
5. **WHEREAS**, statewide data from California show that less than ten percent of household hazardous waste products are being collected at average costs upwards of \$1,000 per ton; and
6. **WHEREAS**, there are environmental and human health impacts associated with improper management of mercury lamps, sharps, pharmaceuticals and other products and economic impacts when waste becomes litter, including ocean litter; and
7. **WHEREAS**, costs paid by local governments to manage products are, in effect, subsidies to the producers of hazardous products and of products designed for disposal; and
8. **WHEREAS**, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR, also known as Product Stewardship) is a policy approach that encourages shared responsibility where all entities involved in the product chain have some responsibility to reduce the life-cycle impacts of a product and its packaging, but primary responsibility lies with the producer, or brand owner, who makes design and marketing decisions; and
9. **WHEREAS**, under EPR producers are responsible for designing, financing and managing effective end-of-life systems for their products and associated packaging; and

10. **WHEREAS**, EPR incorporates the cost of disposal and recovery of discarded products into the purchase price to allow for a more free-market approach with the private sector playing a bigger role in product waste management, bringing innovation and competition to reduce the recycling costs and the financial burden on local taxpayers and garbage ratepayers; and
11. **WHEREAS**, EPR encourages reuse and recycling and also encourages producers to consider the health and environmental costs associated with the products they create and to include those costs in the product price, thereby creating an incentive to design products that are more durable, less toxic, and cost-effective to repair and recycle; and
12. **WHEREAS**, local jurisdictions in Minnesota, Texas, New York and Massachusetts, and 92 local governments and associations in California have adopted local resolutions calling for state EPR legislation; and
13. **WHEREAS**, the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties and municipal leagues in Minnesota and California have adopted policy statements in support of EPR legislation, and statewide local government Product Stewardship Councils in CA, NW, NY, TX and VT have adopted Principles for Framework Product Stewardship; and
14. **WHEREAS**, more than 50 producer responsibility laws in 32 states covering 7 categories of hazardous products have been passed since 2005, and the Maine legislature unanimously passed the first EPR Framework law in 2010 with Maine Chamber of Commerce and Merchant support; and
15. **WHEREAS**, local governments are eager to develop a partnership with manufacturers to “close the loop” on product waste to keep materials in the economic stream of commerce to support our economy instead of becoming a long-term liability by putting materials in landfills; and
16. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports state and federal EPR legislation which gives producers the incentive to design products to make them less toxic and easier to reuse and recycle.
17. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to protect and support the ability of local and state governments to establish producer responsibility legislation.
18. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages all manufacturers to share in the responsibility for eliminating waste through minimizing excess packaging, designing products for durability, reusability and the ability to be recycled; using recycled materials in the manufacture of new products; and providing financial support for collection, processing, recycling, or disposal of used materials.
19. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourage its members to develop producer responsibility policies such as purchasing recycled content products, leasing products rather than purchasing them and requiring producers to offer

less toxic alternatives and to take responsibility for collecting and recycling their products and the end of their useful life.

Projected Cost: Unknown