

Town of



Town Hall
4 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst, MA 01002

AMHERST *Massachusetts*

Select Board
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14 April 2011

Honorable Governor Deval Patrick
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor
Office of the Lt. Governor
Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Product Stewardship Legislation

Dear Governor Patrick:

At the April 4, 2011 meeting of the Amherst Select Board, the enclosed resolution, encouraging the Massachusetts Legislature to enact comprehensive product stewardship legislation, was adopted by unanimous vote. We urge your support for this critical tool to address an escalating environmental problem.

Thank you for your deep commitment and dedication to the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Stephanie J. O'Keeffe, Chair
Amherst Select Board

cc: Senator Stan Rosenberg
Representative Ellen Story
DEP Commissioner Kenneth Kimmell

Encl: Amherst EPR Resolution

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RESOLUTION OF THE AMHERST SELECT BOARD SUPPORTING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR)

WHEREAS, manufactured goods and packaging constitute approximately 75% of the waste 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 short term unless policy changes are made; 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, 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; also called Product Stewardship) is an environmental policy approach in which producers (brand owners or first importers into the State) 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Amherst include preferential producer take-back language in purchasing contracts where feasible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Amherst Select Board 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 Amherst Select Board urges the Massachusetts legislature to enact EPR legislation for discarded electronic waste this year; and

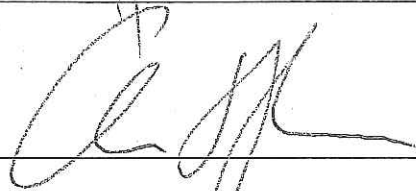
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Amherst Select Board will work with other Massachusetts municipalities and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to enact EPR legislation and regulation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Amherst Select Board, State of Massachusetts, this fourth day of April, 2011.





James Ward



Diana B. Stein
