



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NEWTON

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December 14, 2011

The Honorable Mayor Setti Warren
and
Ald. Scott Lennon
President, Board of Aldermen
City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Ave
Newton Centre, MA 02459

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Dear Mayor Warren and Ald. Lennon:

The League of Women Voters of Newton fully supports a City of Newton Resolution in support of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) language that urges the Massachusetts legislature to enact comprehensive EPR legislation based on the *Framework Principles for Product Stewardship Policy*.

Newton passed a resolution in support of e-waste legislation in 2001 and is now a member of MAPSC (Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council). A resolution in support of EPR Framework legislation would be another demonstration of Newton's commitment to responsible waste management policies. Recently, almost identical resolutions were passed unanimously by the city councils of Cambridge and Worcester

A statewide framework EPR program would eliminate the need to pass new legislation for each new product category, provide a clear and predictable process and incorporate opportunity for stakeholder and producer input in developing the details related to each product category.

Existing efforts by local governments are no longer adequate; few have the funds to cover disposal costs, and the traditional programs like household hazardous waste collection capture only a fraction of what is available for collection. EPR would allow the cost of the disposal or recycling of a product to be included in the purchase price, and would shift some of the costs from taxpayer to producer, and the consumers of the products. In the U.S., 32 states have passed EPR mandates for at least one product. These include pesticides, paints, thermostats, re-chargeable batteries, and florescent light bulbs.

EPR framework can encourage cleaner, safer materials and production processes, as well as to eliminate waste at each stage of the product's life cycle. It provides greater incentive for manufacturers to design products that are less toxic, more durable and are easier to recycle.

Please see the updated Newton Resolution attached with this letter.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Very sincerely,

Anne Borg and Sue Flicop
Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters of Newton