



**SOUTH SHORE
RECYCLING
COOPERATIVE**

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Resolution in Support of Product Stewardship Legislation

WHEREAS:

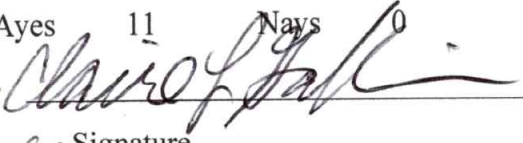
- Approximately 107,000 tons of discarded materials and products were sent to disposal and recycling from the 18 SSRC Member Municipalities of the South Shore Recycling Cooperative (SSRC) in CY22, at a cost of at least \$16 million; and
- 45% of our discards are printed paper and packaging, and another 30% are other manufactured goods managed by solid waste authorities in the United States, based on figures reported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and
- Municipal waste management systems were established a century ago to manage wastes like ashes, food scraps and horse manure, rather than the wide array of manufactured goods and packaging which dominate today's municipal waste, and
- Local governments such as the SSRC's Member Municipalities, and the SSRC itself, have no input into the design or marketing of products, no influence over consumer behavior, make no profit from the products, and do not have the resources to adequately address the rising volume, toxicity and complexity of discarded products, and
- Costs paid by citizens, businesses, and local governments to manage products at the end of use are, in effect, subsidies to producers that enable and encourage producers to design products for disposal and without regard to end-of-life management, and
- Product Stewardship (PS) is an approach in which brand owners and importers accept responsibility for the cost and, in some cases the management, of their post-consumer products, and are incented to design products that are more durable, easier to repair and recycle, and less toxic, and
- Product Stewardship (PS) creates jobs and economic development in direct proportion to the amount of material recycled while businesses that provide take-back opportunities for their customers or participate in PS programs can create customer loyalty, and enhance the image of their brand, and
- The Massachusetts Municipal Association passed a resolution which supports statewide producer responsibility legislation in January 2019,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the South Shore Recycling Cooperative urges the Massachusetts State Legislature to enact pending and future Product Stewardship legislation. These laws will relieve municipalities of this ever-rising cost, and incentivize producers to sell products that are less toxic and easier to reuse and recycle, by requiring such producers to bear the costs for the proper recycling and responsible disposal of their products.

Pending legislation in the 2023-2024 legislative session includes [S.471](#) (printed paper and packaging), [H.823/S.551](#) & [S.542](#), (paint), and [H881](#) & [H.916/S.513](#) (mattresses).

Resolution Adopted Date: 6/7/2023

Vote: Ayes 11 Nays 0 Abstentions 0

Signed:  Executive Director
Signature title
Claire L Galkowski