

April 4, 2024

**DEVENS ENTERPRISE COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING  
EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY**



WHEREAS, landfill capacity in Massachusetts is rapidly declining and no new capacity is expected, and the costs of hauling and disposal of waste materials have increased by over 30% in the last five years and are expected to continue increasing at similar rates, and

WHEREAS, residents, businesses, and organizations in Devens are required to fund the management of discarded manufactured goods and packaging, and

WHEREAS, manufactured goods and packaging constitute approximately 75% of the materials managed by solid waste authorities in the United States, based on figures reported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and

WHEREAS, hazardous and hard-to-recycle product management costs are expected to increase substantially in the short term and there can be significant environmental and human health impacts associated with improper management of hazardous products, and

WHEREAS, local governments such as the Devens Enterprise Commission 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

WHEREAS, costs paid by citizens, businesses, and local governments to manage products 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

WHEREAS, Extended Producer Responsibility ("EPR") is an environmental policy approach in which producers (brand owners and importers) accept responsibility for the management of post-consumer products, so those who produce products help bear the costs of recycling and responsible disposal, and

WHEREAS, when producers are responsible for ensuring 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, EPR is a form of industry-led recycling that 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 EPR programs can gain a distinct advantage in the marketplace, create customer loyalty, and enhance the image of their brand, and

WHEREAS, maximizing reuse, reducing toxicity and waste, and recycling will help advance the sustainable redevelopment goals of the Devens Reuse Plan and contribute to greenhouse gas emission reductions for businesses, residents and organizations, furthering the Devens Forward Climate Action Plan goals, and;

WHEREAS, the Devens Enterprise Commission supports statewide efforts to hold product producers responsible for hazardous product discard management and other product waste management costs, and

Now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the Devens Enterprise Commission, in its capacity as the planning board and local board of health for the Devens Regional Enterprise Zone, urges the Massachusetts State Legislature to enact EPR legislation which will give producers the incentive to design products that are less toxic and easier to reuse and recycle by requiring such producers to help bear the costs for the proper recycling and responsible disposal for their hazardous and hard to recycle products.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution Adopted Date:

Signed: