

Circular Ventures, LLC • Citizens Campaign for the Environment •
Clean and Healthy New York • Closed Loop Partners • Environmental Advocates NY •
Natural Resources Defense Council • New York League of Conservation Voters •
New York Product Stewardship Council • NYS Association for Reduction, Reuse and
Recycling • NYS Association of Counties • NYS Conference of Mayors • Pack Green
Coalition • Product Stewardship Institute • Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter •
Sims Municipal Recycling • The Association of Plastic Recyclers •
The Recycling Partnership

March 31, 2022

Honorable Carl Heastie
Assembly Speaker
LOB 932
Albany, NY 12248

RE: Support for Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging & Paper in the Budget

Dear Speaker Heastie:

We, the undersigned, representing environmental organizations, local and international businesses, local governments, product stewardship organizations, and other waste management stakeholders, respectfully urge you to come to an agreement on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging and printed paper in the final SFY 2022-23 budget.

Governor Hochul and the NYS Senate have proposed EPR programs in their respective budget proposals for SFY 2022-23. With Chairman Englebright conveying to us that his proposal will be released shortly, the current budget negotiation is the best opportunity for you and your partners in government to create a final EPR program that addresses the state's solid waste and recycling crisis.

New York State is facing a solid waste and recycling crisis that requires urgent action. New York taxpayers are footing the bill of skyrocketing solid waste and recycling expenses while landfills are reaching capacity, plastic is ending up in our waterways and on roadsides, and greenhouse gases are contributing to the global climate crisis. Local governments outside of NYC are paying an estimated \$80 million annually to keep recycling programs alive, while NYC is estimated to spend over \$100 million a year. Communities are being forced to pull back on recycling services, or worse, having to consider shuttering programs altogether.

New York State cannot afford to wait any longer to address our growing solid waste and recycling crisis. The status quo is unsustainable, and a major change is needed. Based on decades of experience from around the world, EPR is a proven, cost-effective solution to fix recycling, reduce waste and pollution, and save local governments money. Equally compelling is the ability of EPR legislation to encourage waste prevention, greater recyclability, increased recycled content and the removal of toxic chemicals in packaging.

Given the fiscal implications being faced by local governments and the urgent need to implement a solution to our solid waste crisis this year, we feel strongly that Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging and printed paper must be adopted as part of the final SFY 2022-23 budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Adrienne Esposito
Executive Director
Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Stephen J. Acquario
Executive Director
NYS Association of Counties (NYSAC)

Julie Tighe
President
New York League of Conservation Voters

Peter A. Baynes
Executive Director
NYS Conference of Mayors

Bobbi Wilding
Executive Director
Clean and Healthy New York

Roger Downs
Conservation Director
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter

Kate Kurera
Deputy Director
Environmental Advocates NY

Tom Outerbridge
President
Sims Municipal Recycling

Eric A. Goldstein
New York City Environment Director
Natural Resources Defense Council

Michael P. Washburn, Ph.D.
Senior Policy Advisor
The Recycling Partnership

Dawn Timm
Chair
New York Product Stewardship Council

Ron Gonen
Founder & CEO
Closed Loop Partners

Scott Cassel
Chief Executive Officer/Founder
Product Stewardship Institute, Inc

Steve Alexander
President & CEO
Association of Plastic Recyclers

Gary Carrel
President
NYSAR3 (New York State Association for
Reduction, Reuse and Recycling)

James Asali
President and CEO
Pack Green Coalition

Myles Cohen
Founder
Circular Ventures, LLC

Cc: Honorable Kathy Hochul, NYS Governor
Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate Majority Leader