**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

A resolution of **[Entity]** of the **[Jurisdiction Name]** supporting product stewardship systems

for rechargeable batteries to provide stable financing, increased recycling,

recovery of resources, and reduced environmental and health impacts.

**WHEREAS** the recycling and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes and the conservation of resources are two of the most challenging and costly issues currently facing local governments; and

**WHEREAS** the use of rechargeable batteries is increasing with more than 350 million rechargeable batteries purchased annually in the United States, and over the past decade the market share of rechargeable batteries has increased from single digit percentages to the current share of 20%.[[1]](#endnote-1)

**WHEREAS** certain rechargeable batteries contain toxic heavy metals such as cadmium and lead that can cause harm to the environment and human health when improperly managed, and the potential health effects of exposure to cadmium[[2]](#endnote-2) and lead include cancer and irreparable reproductive disorders as well as kidney, liver and neurological dysfunctions.[[3]](#endnote-3)

**WHEREAS** approximately 400,000 pounds of rechargeable batteries were discarded in Washington State landfills in 2009[[4]](#endnote-4) and the metals from discarded rechargeable batteries can contribute to the toxicity levels of landfills and incinerator ash.[[5]](#endnote-5)

**WHEREAS** only 10‐12 percent of consumer rechargeable batteries are recycled.[[6]](#endnote-6)

**WHEREAS** recycling rechargeable batteries has numerous benefits, including net reductions in materials consumption and pollutant emissions, and reduced impacts on human health and the environment.[[7]](#endnote-7)

**WHEREAS** recycling rechargeable batteries provides a source of secondary raw materials including thousands of tons of metals such as nickel, cobalt and iron[[8]](#endnote-8) that can be used to create new batteries and stainless steel products.[[9]](#endnote-9)

**WHEREAS** recycling rechargeable batteries such as Lithium-ion can result in natural resource savings of more than 50 percent.[[10]](#endnote-10)

**WHEREAS p**roduct stewardship is a policy approach that shifts financial and physical responsibility for end-of-life management of consumer products from local governments to those who benefit economically from the sale of the products they produce and to those who use the products; and

**WHEREAS** when producers are responsible for ensuring their products are reused or recycled or disposed of responsibly, also known as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), 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** industry organizations such as the voluntary rechargeable battery recycling program, Call2Reycle, have partnered with 54 local jurisdictions (city and county governments) and hundreds of retailers to established nearly 500 active rechargeable battery collection sites around the state that are accessible to the public at no cost; and

**WHEREAS** in 2011, Call2Recycle paid for the recycling of more than 31,000 pounds of rechargeable batteries collected by local governments in Washington, saving $25,000 in costs to local governments;[[11]](#endnote-11) and

**WHEREAS** the stability of manufacturer-financed product stewardship programs is based on the condition that manufacturers of rechargeable batteries and manufacturers of products that contain rechargeable batteries pay into the program; and

**WHEREAS** legislation is needed to ensure that all manufacturers of rechargeable batteries and manufacturers of products that contain rechargeable batteries participate in and fully fund product stewardship programs; and

**WHEREAS** rechargeable battery manufacturers support product stewardship legislation requiring manufacturers to finance a stewardship program to collect, recycle or properly dispose of rechargeable batteries;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that **[Jurisdiction Name]** supports policies and legislation that establish a convenient, safe, and environmentally sound rechargeable battery stewardship program in Washington State that is financed by the manufacturers of rechargeable batteries and manufacturers of products that contain rechargeable batteries and covers the cost of collection, transportation, and recycling, and does not rely on state and local government funding.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the **[Entity]** of **[Jurisdiction]** be authorized to send letters to the State Legislature and State associations, and to use other advocacy methods to urge support for rechargeable battery product stewardship legislation.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the [Entity] of [Jurisdiction], State of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the following vote:

1. MIT Material Systems Lab, *Life Cycle Impacts of Alkaline Batteries with a Focus on End‐of‐Life*. Prepared for the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, February 2011. http://calpsc.org/assets/products/2011/batteries\_MIT%20Battery%20LCA%20by%20NEMA%20Final.pdf. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. US Geological Survey, “Flow of cadmium from rechargeable batteries in the United States.” *Scientific Investigations Report* *2007-5198*, 2007. http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2007/5198/sir2007-5198v2-508.pdf. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Information on human health impacts of cadmium, mercury, lead, and other battery components can be found at U.S. EPA Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) at http://www.epa.gov/IRIS/. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. According to the Department of Ecology’s 2009 Washington State Waste Characterization Study, 2,068,000 pounds were discarded in Washington State landfills in 2009. The estimated market share of rechargeable batteries is 20 percent (from the MIT study cited above), so the quantity of discarded rechargeable batteries is estimated to be 413,600 pounds. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. European Commission, *Questions and Answers on the Battery Directive: 2006/66/EC*, April 2008. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. This estimate reflects the rechargeable batteries that Call2Recycle collects divided by an estimate of sales into North America by Call2Recycle’s licensees. They include batteries used by consumers that are also used in business situations (e.g., cell phones, two-way radios, laptops, etc.). [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. ERM, *Battery Waste Management Life Cycle Assessment*, October 2006. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. Battery Summit, “Briefing Paper Factbase,” *2011 Battery Summit* (Dallas, TX: April 5-6, 2011). http://recyclebattery.org/wp-content/themes/twentyten/pdfs/factbase.pdf. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Call2Recycle, “How the Call2Recycle Program Works,” http://www.call2recycle.org/how-program-works/ (accessed September 25, 2012). [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. Dewulf, J et al. “Recycling rechargeable lithium ion batteries: Critical analysis of natural resource savings,” *Resources, Conservation, and Recycling*, 54 (2010): 229–234. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. Based on Call2Recycle collection data, local governments collected 31,136 pounds of rechargeable batteries in FY2012, and retail stores collected 61,090 pounds. According to the Washington Department of Ecology, rechargeable battery recycling costs local governments in Washington approximately $0.80 per pound. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)