**Sample Product Stewardship Support Resolution   
for Local Governments in Washington State**

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

**A resolution of [Board, Council, or Entity] of the [Jurisdiction Name] supporting product stewardship to provide stable financing for end-of-life management of consumer products, increase recycling and resource recovery, and reduce 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,** [Jurisdiction] has established a goal of diverting \_\_\_% of our solid waste from disposal [landfills/incineration] by \_\_\_\_\_ [year]; and

**WHEREAS,** manufactured goods and packaging constitute approximately 75% of the waste materials managed by jurisdictions, based on figures reported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency[[1]](#endnote-1) *[use local figures if available]*; and

**WHEREAS,** [Jurisdiction] [taxpayers and/or ratepayers] paid $\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_ [recent year] to manage discarded manufactured goods and packaging; and

**WHEREAS,** the municipal waste management system was established a century ago to manage far simpler and more homogeneous wastes like ashes, food scraps and organic wastes, rather than the manufactured goods and packaging which dominate today’s waste stream; and

**WHEREAS**, hazardous and hard-to-recycle product management costs are not expected to decrease in the short term unless policy changes are made; and

**WHEREAS**, there are significant environmental and human health impacts associated with improper management of hazardous products; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments 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 and local governments to manage discarded products are in effect subsidies to producers that enable the design of products for disposal and without regard to end of life management; and

**WHEREAS**, Product 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,** the Washington State Legislature has enacted product stewardship legislation for selected electronic products in 2006, and mercury-containing lighting in 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2010 the recycling industry supported 459,131 jobs, $26.1 billion in wages, $10.3 billion in taxes to federal, state and local governments and an overall economic output of $90.6 billion[[2]](#endnote-2); and

**WHEREAS**, the US Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, and the National Association of Counties have all adopted resolutions[[3]](#endnote-3) in support of Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of [Jurisdiction] that the Board/Council of [Jurisdiction] that the [Board/Council] supports creation of convenient and effective product stewardship systems, either voluntary or mandated through legislation, that hold product producers primarily responsible for end-of-life management of their products, and that shift government’s role to oversight of compliance and protection of environment and health; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the [Sustainability/Solid Waste Director] of [Jurisdiction] be authorized to send letters to the State Legislature and State associations, and to use other advocacy methods to urge support for product stewardship legislation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that [Jurisdiction] and its member agencies include language to support and enable product stewardship approaches in contracts for commodities and services, such as leasing products rather than purchasing them, specifying product and packaging collection and recycling requirements, and authorizing [Jurisdiction] to form agreements with product stewardship organizations to compensate [Jurisdiction] for end-of-life management of specific products.

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

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: (mo/day/year)

(Name), Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Name), Clerk

(Jurisdiction name)

1. [Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States: Facts and Figures for 2008](http://www.epa.gov/wastes/nonhaz/municipal/pubs/msw2008rpt.pdf), Environmental Protection Agency [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. [Financial and Economic Impacts of Product Stewardship](http://www.productstewardship.us/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=687), Product Stewardship Institute [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. [National EPR Resolutions](http://www.productpolicy.org/content/national-epr-resolutions), Product Policy Institute [↑](#endnote-ref-3)