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Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture  
Chair Anne M. Gobi  
Chair Smitty Pignatelli

October 15, 2019

Dear Chair Gobi and Chair Pignatelli,

MassRecycle and its subsidiary, the Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council (MassPSC), would like the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture to know that product stewardship and more specifically, extended producer responsibility (EPR) are a policy priority for our organization. We have supported legislation, educated legislators, and worked with industry trade associations to develop realistic and sustainable policies. Additionally, we have and will continue to provide platforms to increase discussion on EPR by bringing together diverse groups of stakeholders at events such as the EPR Summit that was held in February. Details from this important event can be found at [massrecycle.org](http://massrecycle.org).

In past years, EPR bills have stalled in MA while being passed as common sense laws to manage various problem materials in neighboring states and elsewhere across the US. Municipalities across Massachusetts are at the front lines of managing the increasing amounts of waste and recyclables generated by our consumption-oriented society while budgets shrink and costs increase. Our municipalities need your help. EPR laws supported by industry are an effective win-win solution for industry, municipal governments, and Massachusetts residents.

To that end, we urge you to pass S495 sponsored by Senator Edward Kennedy. This bill would form a special commission to study mattress recycling. This commission would build on the efforts that MassDEP has made with their successful grant program for mattress recycling. It is our hope that passage of this bill will eventually lead to a collection system similar to those found in neighboring states such as Connecticut and Rhode Island.

We also strongly support H796 sponsored by Representative Haddad relative to establishing a paint collection system and we implore you to pass this bill. This bill is supported by the paint industry and has been successfully implemented in 9 states plus Washington, D.C., including our neighbors Connecticut, Maine, Vermont, and Rhode Island. Paint is a messy, nuisance material that is best kept out of the waste stream. If unused paint is mismanaged, it can end up down storm drains. It is a pain point for everyone to make it to a household hazardous waste collection event or to dry out latex paint. With a paint collection system, leftover paint can be recycled conveniently.

These are but two legislative measures that would create systems to help municipalities meet ever-increasing challenges managing the waste stream. We urge the Committee to positively support both of these bills and to urge your colleagues to make this the first session to pass legislation. To help legislators understand these issues at a deeper level, MassRecycle is hosting a legislator's breakfast with Senator Kennedy in room 428 on **Wednesday, November 20, 2019 from 9:30 – 11:00 AM** that will focus on paint, mattresses, and EPR more broadly. You, your colleagues, and legislative staff are invited to this breakfast to learn more about how you can help municipalities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Gretchen Carey  
MassRecycle President

Phil Goddard  
MassPSC, Chair

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