

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING  
EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY**

**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**, residents and businesses in Onondaga County are required to spend large sums of money to manage discarded manufactured goods and packaging; and

**WHEREAS**, hazardous and hard-to-recycle product management costs are expected to increase substantially 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**, New York State policy currently makes local governments responsible for achieving waste diversion goals, which is an unfunded mandate; and

**WHEREAS**, the municipal waste management system in the United States was established a century ago to manage far simpler and more homogeneous wastes like ashes, food scraps and horse manure, rather than the manufactured goods and packaging which dominate today's municipal waste; and

**WHEREAS**, local solid waste authorities such as OCRRA 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 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**, some corporate producers have implemented take-back efforts which have been helpful but there is a need for consistent industry-wide practices and this can only be accomplished by EPR legislation on a State or Federal level, 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 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

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**WHEREAS**, the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency has enacted a greenhouse gas reduction goal and recycling and waste reduction are important strategies for achieving the goal; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New York can advance EPR through a variety of mechanisms including requiring the manufacturers of many products sold to New York State departments to take financial responsibility for collecting and recycling those products at the end of their useful life; by incorporating EPR policies into New York State's product procurement practices; by favoring vendors and manufacturers that take back their product and associated packaging at end of life

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency supports statewide efforts to hold producers responsible for hazardous product discard management and other product waste management costs; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency that the Agency intends to focus community resources on the recovery and beneficial use of organic materials (food scraps, yard trimmings, etc.) and to encourage the State of New York to transfer responsibility for the costs of managing certain products at end-of-life to producers (brand owners and first importers); and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency urges the New York State Legislature to enact framework EPR legislation which will give producers the incentive to design products to make them less toxic and easier to reuse and recycle; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Executive Director of the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency is directed to send letters to the State legislature and State associations and to use other advocacy methods to urge support for EPR legislation; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that State of New York and its member agencies are urged to include EPR language, such as specifying product and packaging collection and recycling requirements, in contracts for commodities. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**Resolution Adopted Date:** June 10, 2009

**Vote:** Ayes 12 Nays 0 Abstentions 0

**Signed:** Catherine M. Strong

WJB/pe