



### **Support for SB686 & HB830 Covered Electronic Devices Recycling Program**

Senate Education, Energy and Environment Hearing February 20  
House Environment and Transportation Hearing February 21

Position: Favorable with amendment suggested below

CPSR has over 900 members statewide in Maryland who work for policy and action in major economic sectors including energy, transportation, and building, as well as pollution, social determinants of health, and the pursuit of health equity and environmental, social, and racial justice.

Electronics dominate all aspects of our lives. While the technology is amazing, the core constituent materials in these devices must be managed safely. These include plastics, metals, and chemicals, many of which (e.g. lead, benzene, cadmium) are toxic to humans and other living creatures, and others (e.g. valuable rare earth minerals) which could be reused. As new electronic devices are made and purchased, obsolete ones pile up.

The Maryland General Assembly enacted innovative legislation (HB109/2004, HB575/2005, HB488/2007, HB448/2012, HB879/2012) which started and supported state and local electronic recycling programs and kept millions of tons of these constituent materials out of the waste stream. Nonetheless, too many components have been discarded; too many toxins have leaked into our air, water, and soil; too many obsolete electronics haven't been dumped into landfills, incinerators, and roadsides or are stored in basements, closets, and warehouses until someone figures out what to do with them.

**Now this program must be updated to stay current and ahead of demand and needs. That is why CPSR urges you to support HB830/SB686.**

This legislation enables the Maryland Department of the Environment to manage and operate the program through the State Recycling Trust Fund. It also creates a funding mechanism to accomplish these goals.

In the big picture, accountability should shift to the electronic manufacturers themselves. It should not fall to citizens/taxpayers, states, counties, and countries to sort this out with the environment and public health paying the ultimate costs. These products should have been designed with dismantling plans built-in at their outset down to the molecular level. This legislation encourages that, but CPSR requests an amendment that more steps are taken to require manufacturers to take life-cycle responsibility for what they make and sell because these companies make 100% of the profits while paying 0% of the costs of safe disposal. In the final analysis, regulation is a sign of design failure.

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility urges you to vote favorably on both bills. Thank you for your consideration.

CPSR

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