



SB 686 Environment – Environment - Covered Electronic Devices Recycling Program - Establishment

Date: February 16, 2024

Position: Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee:

We enthusiastically support the goal of overhauling Maryland’s electronic recycling program for the State and greatly appreciate the leadership of the sponsors in this regard.

The proposal as drafted follows the approach used in Maryland’s Scrap Tire Program enacted in 1991 - placing an additional fee on the consumer and using those revenues to implement recycling of the product. A similar approach was used in California in 2023 for computer screens. The proposed bill includes a few of the tools of producer responsibility programs but does not implement a producer responsibility policy.

Under a producer responsibility approach, producers of the product, those who design the product, are incentivized to create a product that generates less waste and is more recyclable. This is achieved through manufacturers developing their own incentive system overseen by the State. This bill does not include components to incentivize the design of a better product. The cost of the recycling is borne by the consumer.

For these reasons, we ask the Committee to amend the bill to include a producer incentive system or modify the bill to require a study to determine how best to implement producer responsibility for electronic products.

We thank everyone involved in this effort for taking the initiative to begin the badly needed update of the electronic recycling program in Maryland.

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