

1 [Extended Producer Responsibility]

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3 **Urging San Francisco's State delegation to support statewide efforts to**  
4 **hold producers responsible for product waste, starting with toxic products**  
5 **defined as universal waste; requesting the Department of the Environment**  
6 **recommend local extended producer responsibility policies as well as work**  
7 **with necessary agencies to develop producer responsibility language for**  
8 **inclusion in City contracts.**

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10 WHEREAS, Manufactured goods and packaging constitute about seventy-  
11 five percent of the materials managed by the City and County of San Francisco  
12 and sent to landfill, costing San Francisco residents and businesses about \$150  
13 million a year in refuse rates plus millions more in taxes to manage; and

14 WHEREAS, On February 8, 2006, a state law takes effect that makes it  
15 illegal to throw in the garbage items defined as "universal waste," which includes  
16 household batteries, fluorescent bulbs or tubes, thermostats, other items that  
17 contain mercury, as well as electronic devices including VCRs, microwaves,  
18 cellular phones, cordless phones, printers, and radios; and

19 WHEREAS, Assuming a fifty percent recovery rate, collecting and  
20 disposing of these products now banned from the trash will cost San Francisco  
21 an estimated additional \$5 million each year; and

22 WHEREAS, When additional products are declared as hazardous by the  
23 State the burden to manage these items will fall to local jurisdictions; and

1           WHEREAS, There are significant environmental and human health  
2 impacts associated with household products that contain toxic ingredients,  
3 including mercury, lead, cadmium and other toxic chemicals that when disposed  
4 of improperly can contaminate water supplies; and

5           WHEREAS, By covering the costs of collection and disposal, local  
6 governments are subsidizing the production of waste because manufacturers  
7 know that whatever they produce the local government will foot the bill for  
8 recycling or disposal; and

9           WHEREAS, Extended Producer Responsibility is an environmental policy  
10 approach in which producers assume responsibility—financial and/or physical—  
11 for the management of post-consumer products, so that those who produce and  
12 use products bear the costs of recycling and proper disposal; and

13           WHEREAS, When brand owners are responsible for ensuring their  
14 products are recycled responsibly, and when health and environmental costs are  
15 included in the product price, there is a strong incentive to design and purchase  
16 goods that are more durable, easier to recycle, and less toxic; and

17           WHEREAS, It is timely to develop and support extended producer  
18 responsibility legislation to address the universal waste sector of the waste  
19 stream first in response to the state ban on universal waste from household  
20 disposal; now, therefore be it

21           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges our representatives in  
22 Sacramento to pursue statewide extended producer responsibility legislation  
23 targeted at universal waste that will give incentives for the redesign of products to

1 make them less toxic, and shift the cost for recycling and proper disposal of  
2 products from the local government to the producer and distributor of the product;  
3 and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of the Environment develop  
5 producer responsibility policies such as leasing products rather than purchasing  
6 them, and requiring the manufacturers of products sold to City departments to  
7 offer less toxic alternatives, and to take responsibility for collecting and recycling  
8 their products at the end of their useful life; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City and County of San Francisco will  
10 continue to support extended producer responsibility initiatives and statewide  
11 legislation beyond universal waste to cover areas including other hazardous  
12 products, bulky packaging, and items like plastics and multi-material products  
13 that are difficult to recycle.

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