

ARTICLE 64 RESOLUTION/STATE PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY LEGISLATION

To see if the Town will vote to resolve to support advocacy by Zero Waste Arlington at the state level in support of Extended Producer Responsibility legislation; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the Zero Waste Arlington Committee)

Resolution in Support of Producer Responsibility Legislation

WHEREAS:

- Approximately 19,605 tons of discarded materials and products were sent to disposal and recycling from our community in CY22, at a cost of \$3,753,652. (total hauling and processing for trash, recycling, & HHW); and
- 45% of our discards are printed paper and packaging, and another 30% are other manufactured goods managed by solid waste authorities in the United States, based on figures reported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and
- Municipal waste management systems were established a century ago to manage wastes like ashes, food scraps and horse manure, rather than the wide array of manufactured goods and packaging which dominate today's municipal waste, and
- Local governments such as Arlington have no input into the design or marketing of products, minimal influence over consumer behavior, make no profit from the products, and do not have the resources to adequately address the rising volume, toxicity and complexity of discarded products, and
- Costs paid by residents, businesses, and local governments to manage products at the end of use 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
- Producer Responsibility ("PR") is an approach in which brand owners and importers accept responsibility for the cost and, in some cases the management, of their post-consumer products, and are incentivized to design products that are more durable, easier to repair and recycle, and less toxic, and
- PR creates jobs and economic development in direct proportion to the amount of material recycled while businesses that provide take-back opportunities for their customers or participate in PR programs can create customer loyalty, and enhance the image of their brand, and
- The Massachusetts Municipal Association passed a resolution which supports statewide producer responsibility legislation in January 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Arlington urges the Massachusetts State Legislature to enact pending and future Producer Responsibility legislation. These laws will

relieve municipalities of this ever-rising cost, and/or give producers the incentive to sell products that are less toxic and easier to reuse and recycle, by requiring such producers to bear the costs for the proper recycling and responsible disposal of their products. Pending legislation in the 2022-2023 legislative session includes [SD1691](#) (printed paper and packaging), [HD1156](#), [SD1482](#), (paint), and [HD2607](#), (mattresses).

Resolution Adopted Date:

Vote: Ayes Nays Abstentions

Signed: